There was a time when wizards and magic were just the stuff of fairy tales, and girls could be found on every street in every city in the world. But something happened and all the girls suddenly disappeared from the face of the earth, leaving only men remaining. And then the men starting turning into wizards...

A few years after
the girls disappeared...
The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication instituted a system calling for a national census every five years in order to monitor and assess the growing wizard population.
In a special initiative to visit each household, a select few national government officials were chosen to be magic investigators.
FIRST INSTALLMENT:
A WORLD WITHOUT GIRLS

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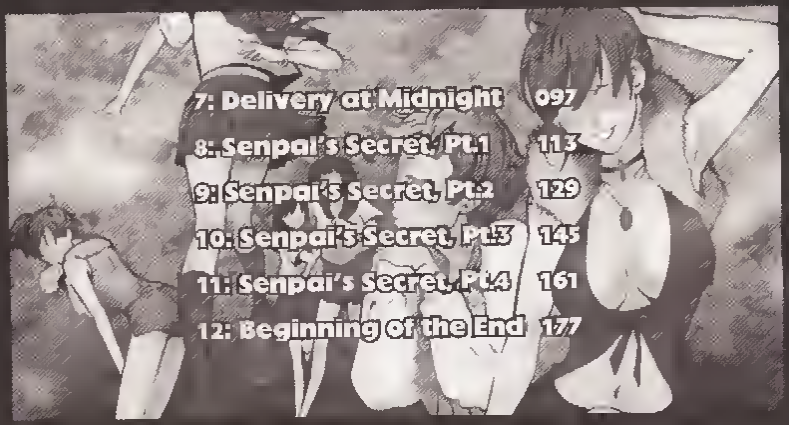
1: A World without Girls 002
2: Devil's Countdown 017
3: Deep Elegy, Pt. 1 033
4: Deep Elegy, Pt. 2 049
5: A's Passion, Pt. 1 065
6: A's Passion, Pt. 2 081



7: Delivery at Midnight 097
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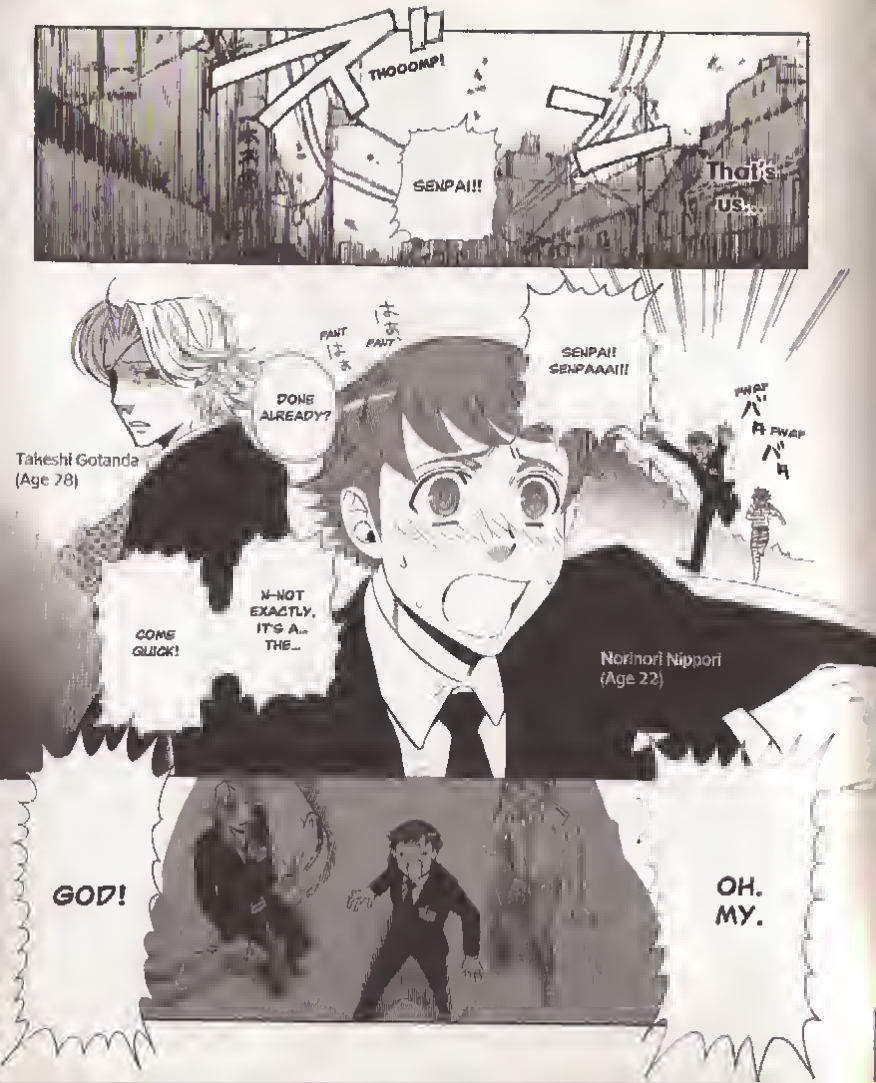
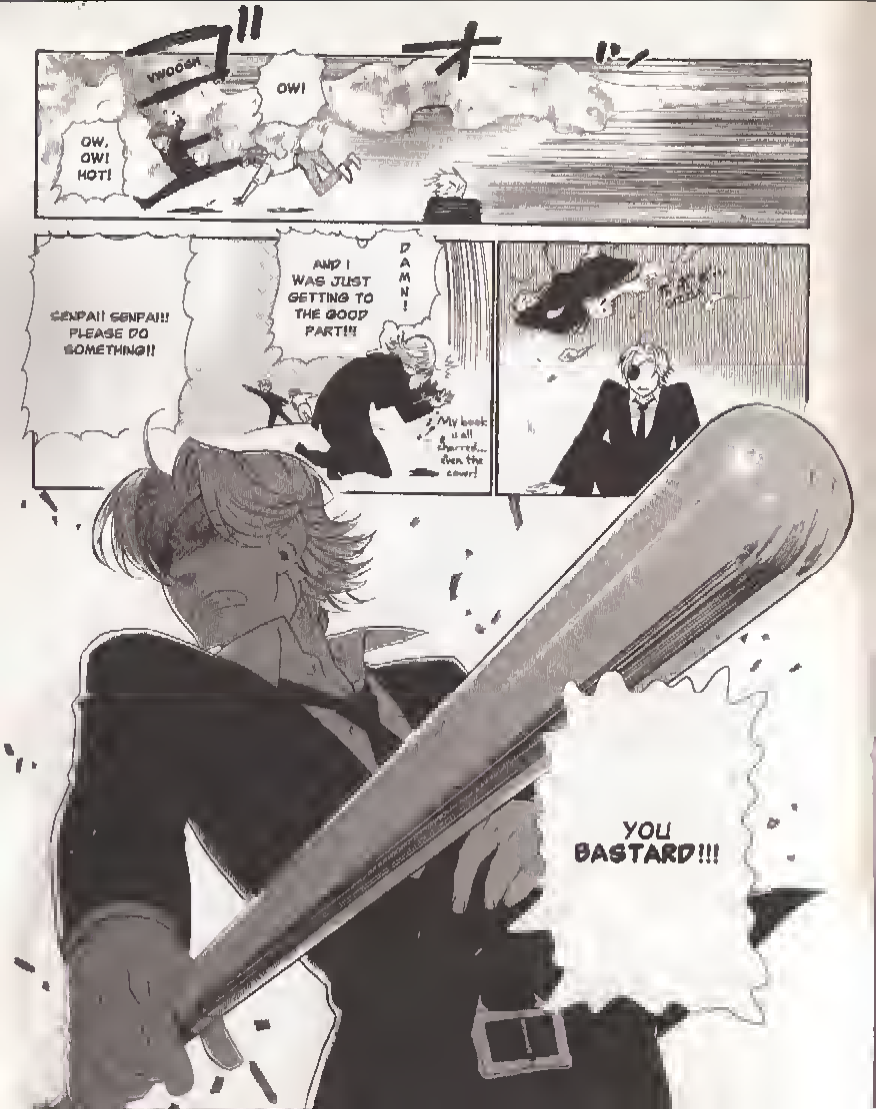
12: Beginning of the End 177

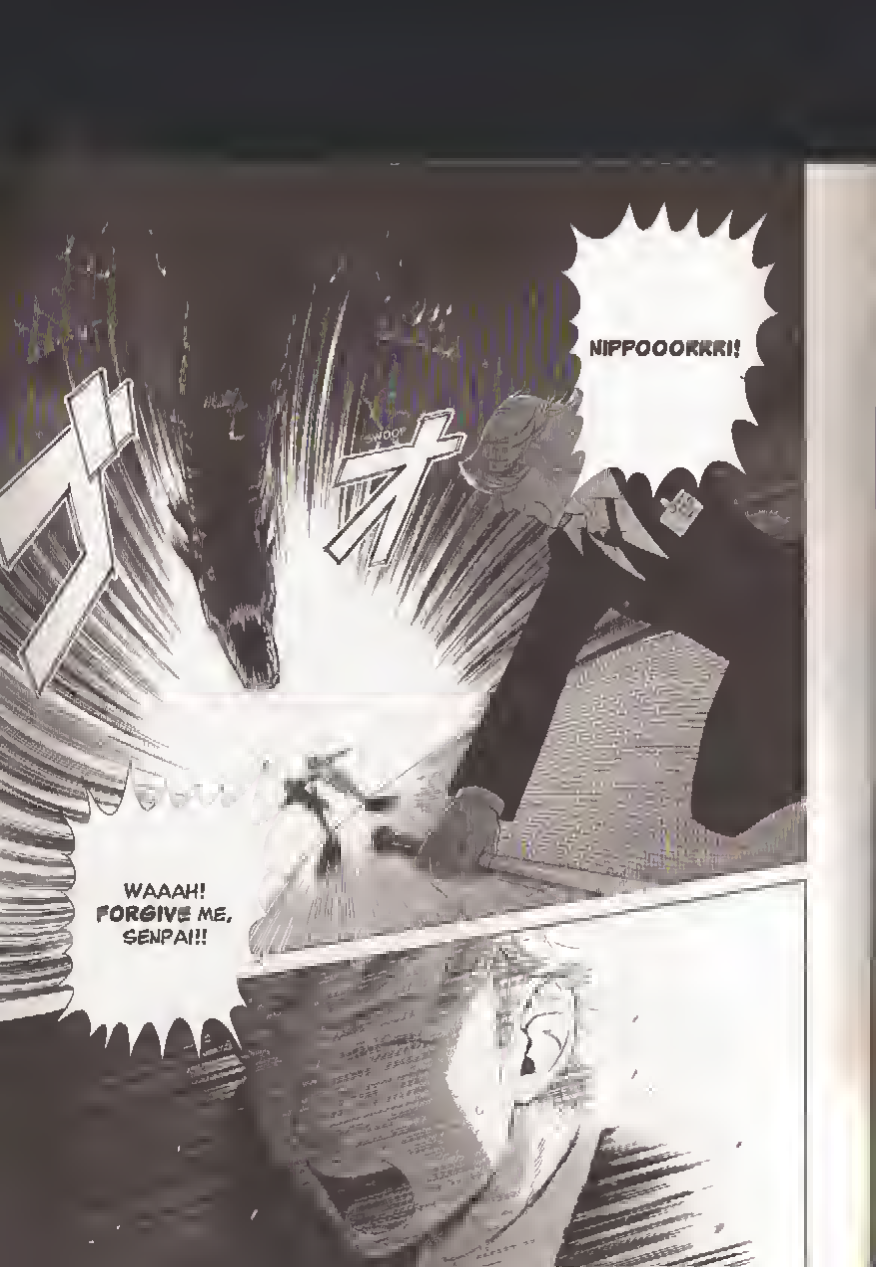
once upon a GLASHMA


THOOOMP!
SENPAI!!
That's
US...
Takeshi Gotanda
(Age 28)
PANT
はあ
PANT
DONE ALREADY?
SENPAI!
SENPAAAI!!
PWAP
PWAP
COME QUICK!
N-NOT EXACTLY, IT'S A... THE...
Norinori Nippori
(Age 22)
GOD!
OH. MY.

ROAAAR
Homeowner
Hajime Tanaka
(Age 25)
BUT MY SWEET AKEMI!
GET OUT OF HERE, MR. TANAKA!
GYAAAAAHH!


VWOOSH
OW!
OW, OW! HOT!
SENPAI! SENPAI!! PLEASE DO SOMETHING!!
AND I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!!!
DAMN!
My book is all charred... Even the cover!
YOU BASTARD!!!

WAIT!
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU COMING AFTER ME?!
AAAAH!
SPRING
NIPPORI, YOU LITTLE--!!
BUT SENPAI! IT'S BEHIND YOU!
BEHIND YOU!!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU A TRILLION TIMES OVER!!!
KISS A DRAGON?!?! NO-NO-NO-NO-NO...
SHE MIGHT CHANGE BACK IF YOU KISS HER AGAIN!
AFTER YOU KISSED HER!
AKEM! MUST'VE CHANGED INTO A DRAGON
HEY, MR. TANAKA!
I-I THINK I JUST FIGURED IT OUT!


NIPPOOOKKRI!
WOOF
WAAAH! FORGIVE ME, SENPAI!!

BOOM
SENPAI...
USE YOUR HEAD!

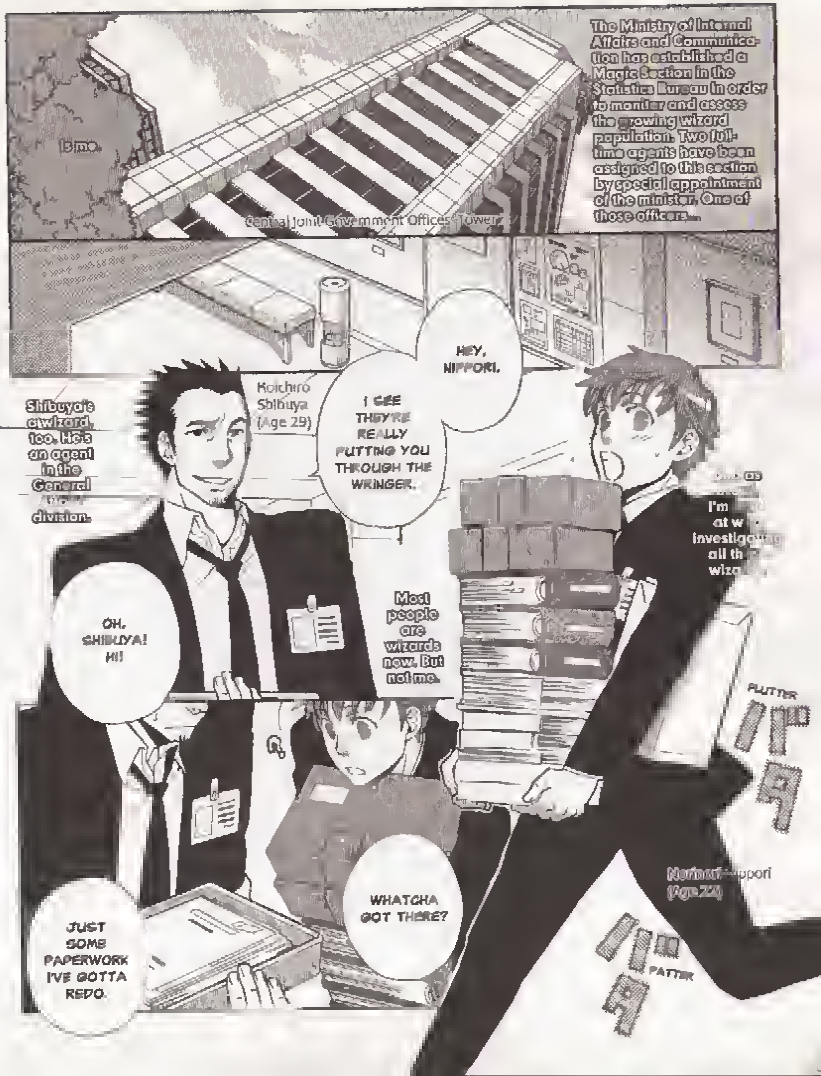
UNGGGH...
NAH, SHE'S JUST NUZZLING HIM.
OH MY GOD! TANAKA!
WHUB!
MAN...
THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD'VE GOTTEN KILLED IS YOU...FOR GETTING INVOLVED.
BESIDES, SUMMONED MONSTERS NEVER ATTACK THEIR SUMMONERS.
YOU'RE A REAL BLOCKHEAD.
AND YOU OWE ME A BOOK.
BUT SENPAI...

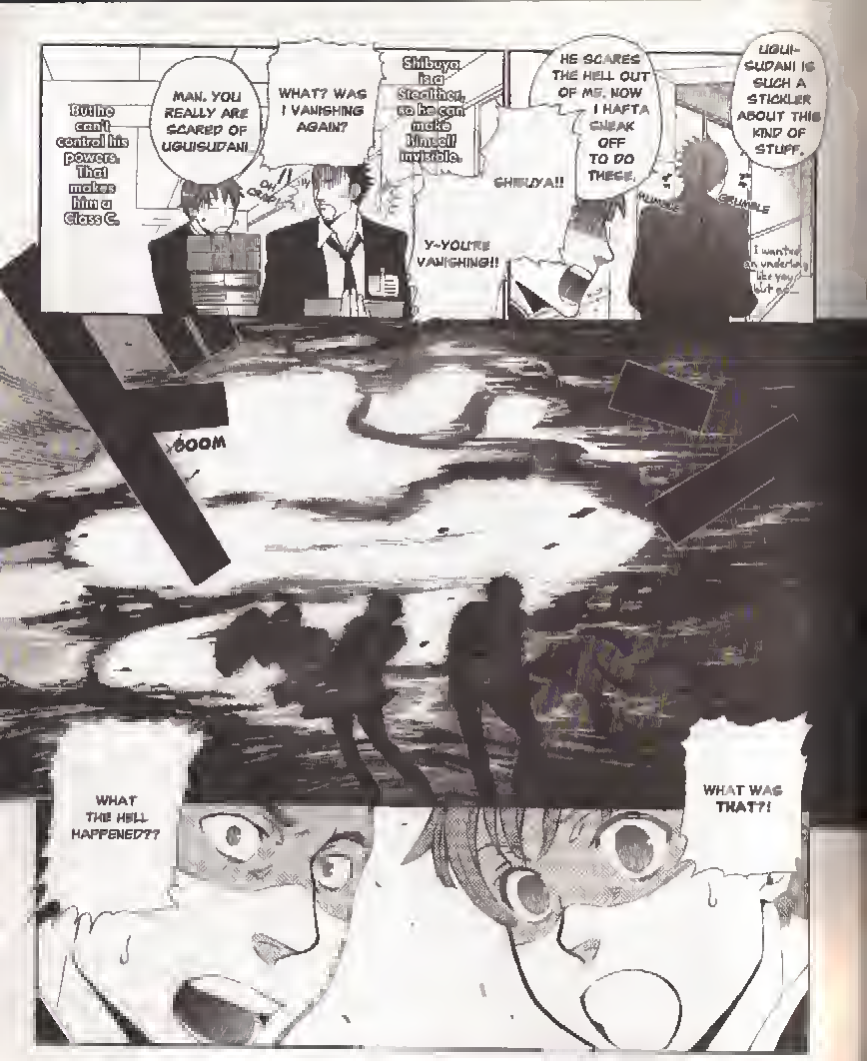
SMELLS TASTY!!
GOLDEN BROWN!
こんがり
MMM!
C'MON, NIPPORI LET'S GO
Well, it's not like I can change her back or anything
YOU'RE LEAVING?!
MY AKEMI~!!
Oh Crap
WE HAVE THINGS TO DO.
Ruptured Eardrum
WE'RE JUST GOING TO ABANDON HIM?
I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS UP WITH THE MINISTRY!
OH—
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH THE CENSUS, MR. TANAKA.
CHUCK! SNAP!
Revenge for my Akemi
I'LL SEE YOU IN COURT!

I'M GUESSING CLASS B FOR HIM. SOUND GOOD?
SURE. WHY NOT?
HAJIME TANAKA.
DRAGON TAMER...
PLOTTER
HRRR...
TAKE CARE OF THESE, TOO
EH??!
まわ
わわ
EH?
THE FORMAL APOLOGIES.

WHEN YOU GET TO LEAVE?!
WHY DO I HAVE TO STAY...
'CUZ I'M YOUR "SENPAI."
WELL, GOTTA GO.
TING-TONG
HOW COME I HAVE TO DO THESE?!
OVERTIME FOR SENIOR POSITIONS IS EXPENSIVE.
WE GOTTA CUT COSTS, YA KNOW.
The Ministry has established a Magic Section in the bureau to cope with the many types and varieties of wizards that have been identified so far. Two full time agents have been assigned to this section by special appointment of the minister—their names are Takeshi Gotanda and Noriori Nippori
YOU JERK!! WHY DON'T YOU BUY YOUR OWN BOOK?!!
STATISTICS BUREAU MAGIC SECTION
REMEMBER TO BUY THAT BOOK FOR ME,
In conjunction with the national census, the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication has instituted a policy of door to door visits to each household in the nation in an effort to understand and ultimately curb the growing wizard population...

SECOND INSTALLMENT:
DEVIL'S COUNTDOWN

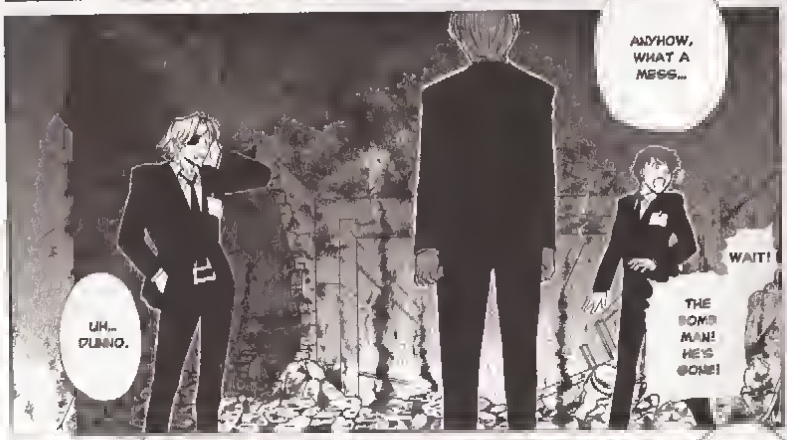

Tokyo.
Central Joint Government Offices Tower 2
The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication has established a Magic Section in the Statistics Bureau in order to monitor and assess the growing wizard population. Two full-time agents have been assigned to this section by special appointment of the minister. One of those officers...
Koichiro Shibuya (Age 29)
Shibuya's a wizard, too. He's an agent in the General [illegible] division.
HEY, NIPPORI.
I SEE THEY'RE REALLY PUTTING YOU THROUGH THE WRINGER.
I'm [illegible] at w[illegible] investigat[illegible] all th[illegible] wiz[illegible]
Most people are wizards now. But not me.
OH, SHIBUYA! HI!
WHATCHA GOT THERE?
JUST SOME PAPERWORK I'VE GOTTA REDO.
PUTTER
Nippori (Page 22)

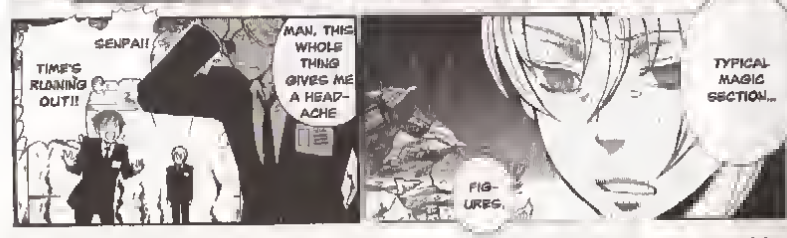

MAN, YOU REALLY ARE SCARED OF UGUISUDANI.
But he can't control his powers. That makes him a Class C.
WHAT? WAS I VANISHING AGAIN?
Shibuya is a Stealther, so he can make himself invisible.
HE SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME. NOW I HAFTA SNEAK OFF TO DO THESE.
SHIBUYA!!
Y-YOU'RE VANISHING!!
UGUI-SUDANI IS SUCH A STICKLER ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF.
I wanted an underling like you, but no...
BOOM
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED??
WHAT WAS THAT?!

Takeshi Gotanda (Age 28)
UNGH?
GOTANDA!!
AAAAAH!
ゴホ
COUGH COUGH
AAAAAH!!
MY PAPERS!
THIS IS WHY I REALLY HATE MAGIC SECTION...
THERE HE GOES BLOWING THINGS UP AGAIN.
BOOM
SENPAI!!
ARE YOU OK???!
HE SAYS HE LIVES IN CONSTANT FEAR
EVEN THE TINIEST BUMP CAN GET HIM OFF
HE EX-PLODED?!
I DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T I?
I'M SO SORRY...
NOTHING. THE GUY EXPLODED.
WH-WHA-WHAT'S GOING ON??!

カチ
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA DO,
UH-OH...
BUT THE ONLY THING A LOW-LEVEL WIZARD CAN DO IS TRAIN-
OH, MAN THERE GOES HIS SWITCH
IS HE GONNA EXPLODE AGAIN??!
OH MY GOD!
ドーム内にいる全員
はやりたいわけ
スウウウウ
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO IF UGUISUDANI SEES US?!!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!!
OH, AND UH...SHIBUYA? REMEMBER NO VANISHING, OK?
SHIBUYA? WHO CARES ABOUT SHIBUYA?
SOUNDS GOOD LET'S DO IT SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE OPEN
YOU CAN'T SEPARATE US UNLESS I EXPLODE
WAIT, SENPAI! THEY'RE STUCK TOGETHER!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT SHIBUYA???

WASN'T SHIBUYA HERE JUST A SECOND AGO?
HMM... THAT'S STRANGE.
UGUI-SUDANI.
Jun Ugui-sudani (Age 27)
DID I JUST HEAR MY NAME?


ANYHOW, WHAT A MESS...
WAIT!
THE BOMB MAN! HE'S GONE!
UH... DUNNO.


SENPAI!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT!!
MAN, THIS WHOLE THING GIVES ME A HEAD-ACHE
TYPICAL MAGIC SECTION...
FIG-URES.

He's on to us.
SAY, DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF?
YOUR PAL SHIBUYA'S BEEN CAUSING US SOME MAJOR HEADACHES.
OF COURSE! I APOLOGIZE FOR EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED.
AND YOU'RE GONNA HELP US FIND HIM.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN MIND, SENPAI?
HEH HEH HEH...
HE RAN AWAY, DIDN'T HE?

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
HEY, GOTANDA!
WELL, HE USUALLY HIDES IN THE BATHROOM, BUT THE STALLS ARE TOO SMALL FOR THE BOTH OF THEM.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT BE?
GO AHEAD!
NOW TRY IT OUT! TRY CASTING A SPELL ON UENO HERE, AND SEE HOW IT WORKS
SHIN-BASHI...
OK BAM
HEE HEE
THAT'S FUNNY.
UENO! STAY WITH US!
OH MY GOD!
C'MON, NIPPORI. LET'S GO.
Shinbashi... it still... doesn't... work.
FLOP

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF.
STOP WITH THE HUFFING BACK THERE.
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY HERE? I'M TRYING TO THINK OF WHAT I'M GONNA TELL UGUISUDAN!
C'MON, KEEP IT DOWN ALREADY.
UMMM...
I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I'M ABOUT TO EXPLODE
YOU CAN EXPLODE LATER!
NOW HELP ME THINK OF SOMETHING TO TELL UGUISUDAN!!
HUH??
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING ON MY LAST NERVE WITH THAT HUFFING. NOW QUIT IT.
I-I-I-I-CAN'T...!!

SWEEP
HEY. I JUST GOT AN IDEA.
SEN-PAI! WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!!
HUH?
WE CAN LURE HIM OUT USING THE BUILDING-WIDE INTERCOM.
WE'RE GONNA FLATTER THE HELL OUT OF HIM.
CHUCKLE
SHIBUYA! CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S UGUISUDANI.
PLEASE COME OUT. I PROMISE I WON'T BE MAD AT YOU.
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT YOU SNACKING DURING WORK.
I WON'T HIDE YOUR CLOTHES AND UNDERWEAR SO YOU CAN'T GO HOME. NOT EVEN IF YOU'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO. IT'LL BE OK.
I WON'T PUT YOU IN THAT CELL ANYMORE
LOOK.
AND I WON'T EVEN TIE YOU UP
.....

SHIBUYA!
DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
UGUI-SUDANI...
YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS THINKING OF YOUR NEEDS FIRST SO PLEASE..
THERE HE IS!
UGUI-SUDANI!!
OW!
OW!
SHIBUYA!!

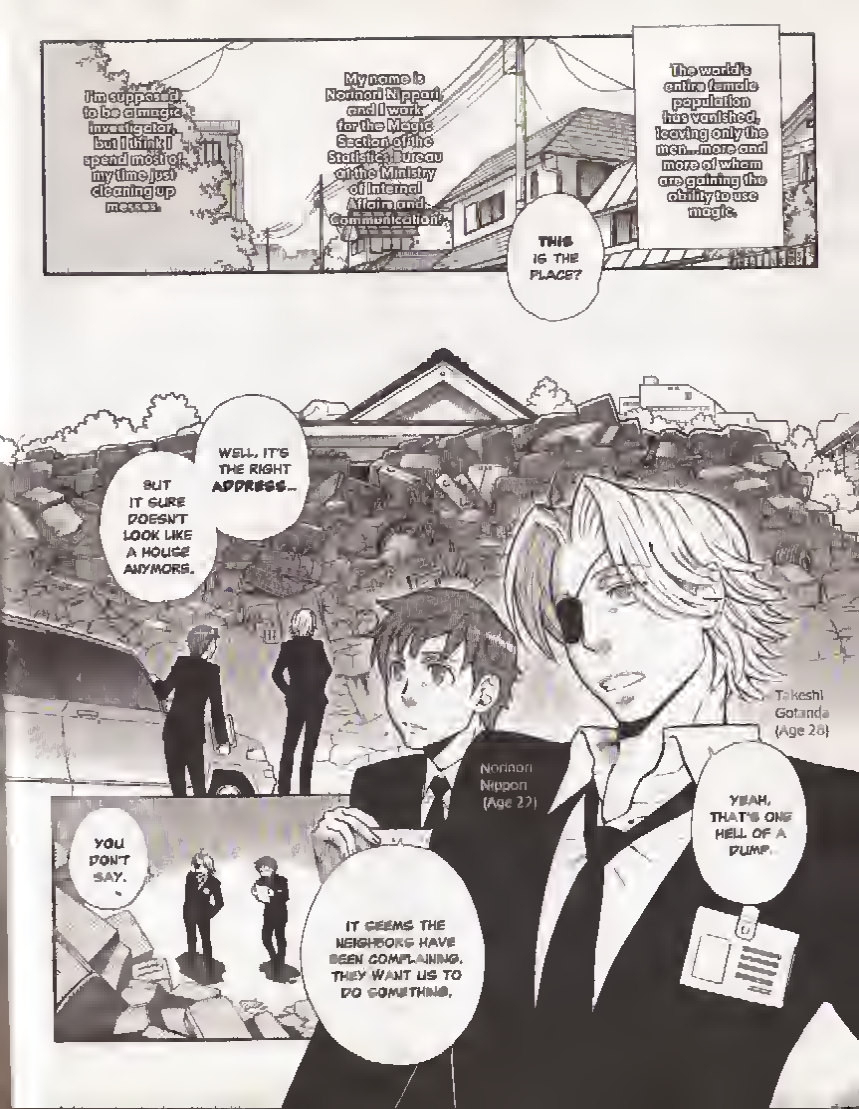
SHIBUYAAA!!!
GO TO HELL!!!!
PIG BASTARD!
CHROME DOME!
**** FOR BRAINS!
LOSER!
SENPAI!!
THE TIME!!!
FLASH
WOOOOOSHE

YOU LITTLE BASTARD!!
THANKS TO YOU, I'M BLOWN UP TOO!!
SENPAI, I THINK YOU'RE FORGETTING WHY WE'RE HERE...
AAAAAH!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!

I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU!! YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME!!
WOW
SHIBUYA... THOSE ARE SOME BAD INJURIES...
HELP"?!? GIMME A FRICKIN' BREAK!
YOU'RE A REAL JACKASS, GOTANDA!
GRIN
...HEH...
DO THAT, AND I SWEAR, IT'LL BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER DO_!
I'M GONNA PASS OUT SOME REALLY EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OF YOU, SLEEPING!
SO IT WAS A TRAP ALL ALONG?!
Koichiro Shibuya
Stealther Class C
UM...
No girls means no [censored] and no [censored]...
Pervert
ARGGGHH!!! WHAT GOOD IS IT BEING ABLE TO DISAPPEAR NOW??
SHALL WE CALL UGUI-SUDANI?
W-W-WAIT
LISTEN TO ME!!!
YOU GOT A DEATH WISH, NIFFORI?
SO, WHAT...YOU DROOL WHEN YOU SLEEP?

HEY, UGUISUDANI ABOUT THIS FORMAL APOLOGY THING. WOULD YOU-?
WELL, THANK YOU BOTH VERY MUCH.
VANISHING
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE
He used the CORNER...!
IS SHIBUYA IN HERE?
NOW ISN'T THAT SO?
Jun Uguisudani
Mind Sweeper
Class S
WHY, GOTANDA
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THE FAULT FOR THIS MESS LIES WITH
YOU
Even in a crazy like this with all the and only guys remaining...it's still picnic being a agent.
HAH...YOU ASK ME, IT'S BECAUSE UGUISUDANI IS REALLY A DEMON
I GUESS THIS MEANS A CLASS C LIKE SHIBUYA IS NO MATCH FOR A CLASS S LIKE UGUISUDANI
WELL, SENPAI

THIRD INSTALLMENT:
DEEP ELEGY, PT. 1


I'm supposed to be a magic investigator, but I think I spend most of my time just cleaning up messes.
My name is Norinori Nippon, and I work for the Magic Section of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.
The world's entire female population has vanished, leaving only the men...more and more of whom are gaining the ability to use magic.
THIS IS THE PLACE?
WELL, IT'S THE RIGHT ADDRESS...
BUT IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A HOUSE ANYMORE.
Norinori Nippon (Age 22)
Takeshi Gotanda (Age 28)
YEAH, THAT'S ONE HELL OF A DUMP.
IT SEEMS THE NEIGHBORS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING. THEY WANT US TO DO SOMETHING.
YOU DON'T SAY.

WAAAAH!
BZZZZ
HM?
ALL RIGHT, SENPAI! YOU'LL BE NEEDING THESE!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
C'MON, NO TIME TO WASTE!
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT CLEAR ON WHAT A MAGIC INVESTIGATOR DOES.
BZZZZ
THEY'RE JUST BUGS
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
HERE
WHAT'S THAT?
WHY WOULD A JOB LIKE THIS GET ASSIGNED TO MAGIC SECTION? THINK ABOUT IT
.....
NIPPORI

I PERSONALLY DEVELOPED THIS FANTASTIC CAPE SPECIFICALLY TO PROTECT AGAINST SO-CALLED "MAGIC POWERS"
LOOKS LIKE A CAPE TO ME
COUNT ME OUT!
I REMEMBER LAST TIME!
WAIT...THIS ISN'T SHINBASHI'S LATEST INVENTION, IS IT?
AND THIS HAIR BAND ABSORBS MAGIC!
THIS IS SO...
LAME
SHINBASHI TAKES HIS WORK VERY SERIOUSLY, YOU KNOW.
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.
YEAH, BUT STILL...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS??!
SO MUCH FOR ALL THAT ENTHUSIASM...

WHOA! I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN AGES!
THIS IS SO GROSS!
OOO, SENPAAA!!
I...I CAN'T STAND BUGS!
EUWWWW!
AAAAH! BUGS!
GET AWAY!
SHOO! SHOO!
SENPAI...HOW COME YOU'RE ONLY SERIOUS WHEN YOU'RE JOKING?
If the owner actually cared about littering, things never would've gotten this bad in the first place...
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
NAIL HIM FOR LITTERING?
YEAH, SO ANYWAY...
IF ANY OF THAT GUNK GETS ON ME, I'LL KILL YOU...
AND THEN I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN.
SPLASH
It's on my SHOE!!!
GYAAH!

LOOK. HE'S GATHERING EVEN MORE TRASH!
THAT MUST BE THE HOMEOWNER.
OH!
HMMMNGH
YOU CAN'T KEEP BRINGING IN TRASH LIKE THIS!
STOP, SIR!
K-TINK
K-TINK
K-TINK
HMMM
GRAAH
SIR!
OOPS
ALMOST LIKE IT JUST FLOATED RIGHT OFF THERE.
WELL, I'LL BE.
OH, NO!

WHO'DA THOUGHT I'D FIND SUCH A NICE GARBAGE BAG JUST LYIN' AROUND?
YANK
BLGH!
SO WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE?
RUSTLE
OH!
S-SIR!
CAN'T LET THE WIFE KNOW, THOUGH, NOSIREE.
I-I CAN'T BREATHE!
THIS SOME KIND OF CAT?
WHAT IN TARNATION?!
SHOOOO
SIR, WE'VE RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALL THIS TRASH.
AND IT'S POSSIBLE THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH MAGIC.
THEREFORE, PENDING A REVIEW OF YOUR WIZARD CLASS,
WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU CLEAR AWAY THIS-
OH, YU!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU!
SORRY, GRAMPS. BEEN KINDA BUSY.
YOU LOOK GOOD, THOUGH. I'M GLAD.
OH, MY YU...
C'mon now, don't cry...
AAH, YUICHI, YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.
Now, where's the EN-TRANCE?
COME ON, LET'S GO INSIDE
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY OUT TOO LONG YOU'LL CATCH COLD
Oh ok
HONEY!
IT'S YUICHI! OUR GRAND-SON IS BACK!

YOU SEE THAT THERE? I MADE THAT MYSELF.
IT'S ONE OF HER FAVORITES!
"WASTE NOT, WANT NOT"--THAT'S WHAT YOUR GRANDMA ALWAYS SAYS.
WE GOTTA STOP AND THINK ABOUT ALL THE STUFF THAT GETS THROWN AWAY
SHE SURE WAS HAPPY WHEN I MADE THAT FOR HER
THIS PLACE HOLDS LOTS OF MEMORIES FOR US..IT'S LIKE OUR PALACE
I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYONE COULD ACTUALLY... LIVE HERE...
ER, I MEAN, IT'S A PALACE I'M BUILDIN' JUST FOR HER..
OH, WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? I PLUM FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE TEA!
GENPAI! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!!
EEK!

I wanna go home!
PANT
PANT
UMM. HE KEEPS GOING ON ABOUT HIS WIFE, BUT...
ACCORDING TO THE LIST, SHE DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THE OTHER WOMEN.
YEAH, WELL... A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DISAPPEARANCE.
OH, HONEY! COULD YOU BRING US SOME TEA?
AAH! IT JUMPED!
EXCUSE ME, SIR!
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ORDER YOU TO REMOVE ALL THIS GARBAGE.
IT'S BECOMING A ROAD HAZARD.
AND IF THERE WAS A FIRE, YOU'D HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM ON YOUR HANDS
SORRY. SHE'S A LITTLE SHY
YOU CAN START BY JUST ORGANIZING IT SOMEHOW, FOLLOWED BY...BY...
...!

LIQUID ROCK
THERE, NOW. COME ON OUT, DEAR
DON'T BE BASHFUL
SOUR GRAPES
OH, I SEE. THE GUY WAS SO IN LOVE WITH HIS WIFE THAT HE USED HIS MAGIC TO RE-CREATE HER.
TH-THE PILE OF TRASH! IT'S... MOVING!!

GWAAAAAH!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
HUH?
HEHEHE
LOOK AT ME... SERVIN' TEA TO A CAT!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
UH-HUH, UH-HUH...
OH RIGHT.
WHAT WAS THAT, PSAR?
TAMA

YOU HEARD THE MAN, NIPPORI.
DON'T BE RUDE.
GUH HAH
SENPAI, I THINK I'M GOING TO LOSE IT...
HERE YOU GO, KITTY, EAT UP!
AAH!
BWSH
BWSH
HEH?!
EW! STOP!!
IT'S THE CAT EARS!
FLOP
THE EARS!
SENPAI..!

NIPPON!?!
ズ
SHOO
ズ
SHOO
SHOO
THE CAT EARS ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO ABSORB MAGIC
HOW THEY'RE TRYIN' TO ABSORB GARBAGE?!
WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
CHLMC
CHLMC
PAN
PAN

ZLIGH
ZLIGH
OH, CRAP!
NIPPON!!!
LOOKS LIKE THE WIFE'S HAVIN' SOME FUN
SENPAI!
GWRRE-HHHLP... MEEEE...!
GLAD TO SEE IT.

FOURTH INSTALLMENT: DEEP ELEGY, PT. 2

WAAAAH!
AAAAH
AAA
AA...
ズズズ
NIPPON!!
DAMNIT!

GOKUN
GOKUN
KRSH
OH MY!
DEAR, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
CLATTER
HEY, OLD MAN!
IT'S DANGEROUS IN HERE, OLD MAN!
(EVEN THOUGH IT IS YOUR FAULT...)
GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU GET HURT!
RRNSH...
SLASH
UWAAAA!
I SWEAR...
THIS IS REALLY DISGUSTING, NIPPORI...

KER-SMASHH!!
OH, NO! DEAR!!
YO, POPS
KER-CRUCH
ドガッ ドガ
AND IT SURE AS HELL AIN'T NO PALACE!
THIS AIN'T YOUR WIFE THIS PLACE AIN'T FULL OF MEMORIES...
IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD

MY HOUSE!
MY WIFE!
NO! NO! WAIT!!
NIPPON!!!
AND IT'S ALL GARBAGE.
BOOM
NOW LISTEN UP, POPS.
QUIT BURYING YOURSELF UNDER ALL THIS JUNK. TRY GETTING SOME FRESH AIR FOR A CHANGE!
HONGEEEEEY!!!!!
OH, CRAP
SLASH

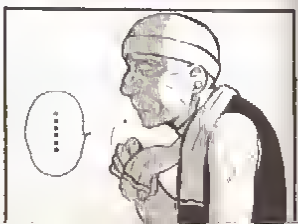
WHAM
DIE!
NO! STOP IT!!
THIS THING JUST DOESN'T QUIT!
SLAMMERSLASH
YOU CAN'T HONESTLY THINK YOUR "HONEY" IS THAT HUGE PILE OF GARBAGE
SLASH
RIGHT?

ボ
SWOOSH
ン
オオオ
オオオ
RRRRUMBLE

FWOOOO
SORRY, OLD MAN
I GUESS I WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD
(SNIFFLE)...
DON'T WORRY-THE GOVERNMENT WILL COMPENSATE YOU FOR EVERYTHING

MY DEAR WIFE...

HUH?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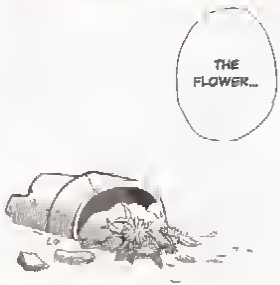
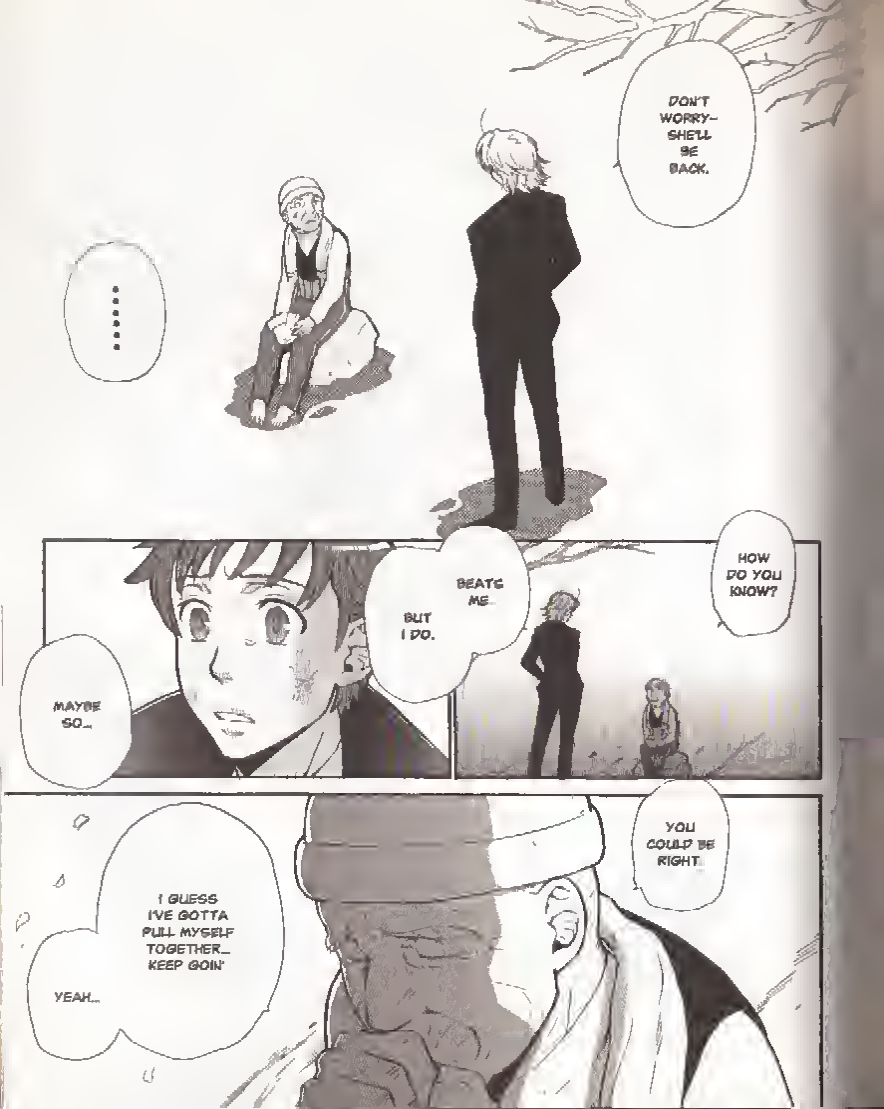
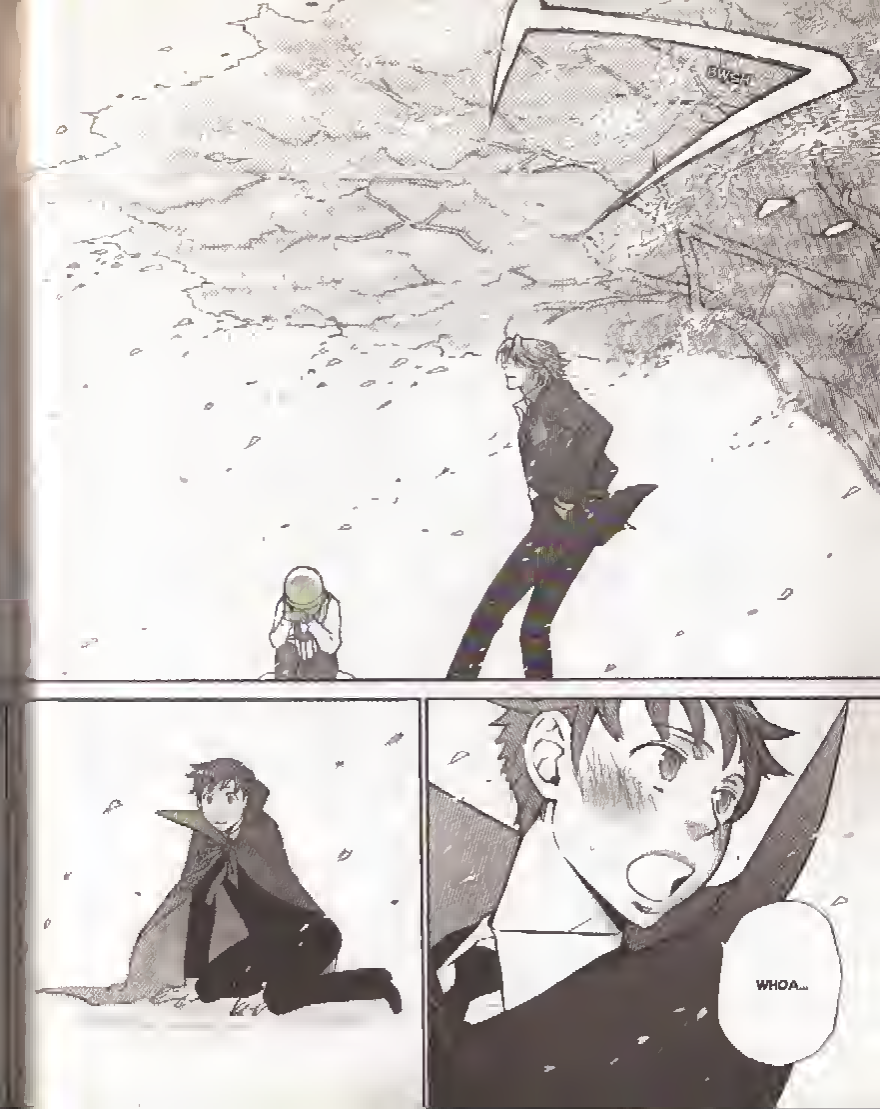

THE FLOWER...

OH.
DEAR, LOOK!
THE FLOWER BLOOMED!
THAT'S RIGHT...
SHE'S GONE, ISN'T SHE?
.....
MY WIFE...
SHE LIKED FLOWERS. SHE WAS ALWAYS FUTTERIN' AWAY IN THE GARDEN


DON'T WORRY- SHE'LL BE BACK.
.....
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
BEATS ME... BUT I DO.
MAYBE SO...
YOU COULD BE RIGHT.
I GUESS I'VE GOTTA PULL MYSELF TOGETHER... KEEP GOIN'
YEAH...

BWSH
HUH?


BWSH
WHOA...

RRNG.
HEY, SENPAI?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD LIST AS THE OLD MAN'S CLASS?
THAT'S OBVIOUS HE'S A "LATE BLOOMER"... HEHE
C'MON, BE SERIOUS!
I AM BEING SERIOUS WHEN YOU'RE CLASSIFYING THINGS, YOU WANT TO KEEP IT SIMPLE. THAT'S THE POINT
WELL ANYWAY, IS IT TRUE THE WOMEN ARE COMING BACK?
COULDN'T SAY

AND THE ONLY THING PREVENTING SOME OF US FROM REALIZING THAT...
THE EARTH KEEPS ON TURNING...
LOOK.
THE WOMEN MAY BE GONE, BUT THAT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, IS IT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT WAS ALL JUST TALK?!
I MEAN, IT'S YOUR STATE OF MIND THAT COUNTS.
IS WHAT'S IN
HERE,
POKE
SENPAI, I NEVER KNEW-
SEE YOU AROUND...
WELL- I'M OFF!
Senpai says it's our state of mind that counts... but I just wish I knew more about HIS.
WANNA COME?
OH, I'M GONNA GO BEAT THE HELL OUTTA CHINDACHI.
NO THANKS.
GO ANYWAY.
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

FIFTH INSTALLMENT:
A'S PASSION, PT. 1

I'm Norinori Nippori. I work for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
GOOD MORNING, UGUISUDANI!
EH?
HMM...?
TODAY'S ANOTHER FINE DAY TO BE WORKING HARD!
Uguisudani! (Age: 23)
It all started when Uguisudani of the General Affairs division decided to bring his partner Shibuya to Magic Section, where I work
WHY ARE YOU INVISIBLE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING... FOR PETE'S SAKE?
SHIBUYA, IS THAT YOU?
The guy who's presumably sitting here is Shibuya.
He goes invisible whenever he gets stressed out.
Job Class: Stealther
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WON'T AFFECT MY WORK
Koichiro Shibuya (Age: 25)
WELL, UM... NO REASON.

I DON'T CARE IF IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR WORK.
I KNOW WHEN YOU GO INVISIBLE, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE.
H-NO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE.
TROUBLE CHAIR
COME TO THINK OF IT...
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS DIFFERENT, TOO
"SOUNDS DIFFERENT"?
COUGH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING. CAN'T YOU SEE HOW WORRIED I AM?
UGUI-SUDANI...
ENERGY
HI-YA!
GOTCHA!
OW...
UM, SHIBUYA...?
SQUEEZE
UGUI-SUDANI, THAT HURTS!
OW!
FLUTTER

WHAT IS THIS?
SENPAI,
WHAT'S THIS LITTLE THING CALLED?
DUNNO
BUT ISN'T IT YOUR PET?
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A PET...
OH, HEY!
UGUISUDANI'S HERE.
BY HIMSELF?
THAT'S WEIRD
NO, SHIBUYA'S HERE WITH ME.
WHY, GOOD MORNING, GOTANDA!
HE'S BEEN INVISIBLE SINCE MORNING.
AND HE'S ACTING STRANGE.
I'M FINE, UGUISUDANI.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE MAGICAL MISHAP.
NO I'M NOT!
I TOLD YOU...
HEHEHE
!

YAAAA!
AAAAAAH!
LISTEN, GOTANDA. I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT...
NO NEED TO SAY ANY MORE, UGUISUZAKI.
NO, WAIT! NOT THE BAT!
GOTAN-DA!!
NIPPORI, HOLD HIM DOWN.
I TOLD YOU I CAN WORK JUST FINE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU NAKED OR SOME-THING?
STOP! DON'T TOUCH ME THERE!
OH BROTHER...

?!
.....
THAT'S GROSS.
IN A MAID OUTFIT?
IS THAT... SHIBUYA?
URRRG
GOTANDA!
WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE GENTLE?!
HOW DARE YOU...

MOIST LIPS... AND A BEARD!
POUT
HAIRY LEGS..
RUSTLE
BULGING BREASTS..
BOUNCE!
WHAT ELSE CAN WE SAY?
I CAN'T HELP IT!
GRAB
ARGH!
SMACK
HELP ME, GOTANDA!
IT WAS MAGIC!
YOU FREAK!
AND THAT'S FOR PRESSING LIKE THAT!
TWITCH
YOU... MISUNDER-

IT'S OK, SHIBUYA.
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.
UGUI-SUDANI.
LOOKS LIKE SHIBUYA WAS USED AS A GUINEA PIG
YOU KEEP SOME PRETTY NASTY COMPANY, SHIBUYA.
KNOCK KNOCK
NOT THAT WE'RE SUR-PRISED.
CREAK
UMM,
HEL-
I GUESS THE CENSUS HASN'T MADE IT HERE YET.
Y-YEAH
SO...
YOU'RE SAYING THE GUYS WHO TURNED YOU INTO A DAME LIVE HERE?

WHO GOES THERE?
WHOOSH
YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO WITH BAD GUYS...
WHAT THE...?
BOK BOK BOKING
AN ARROW?!
-LO?

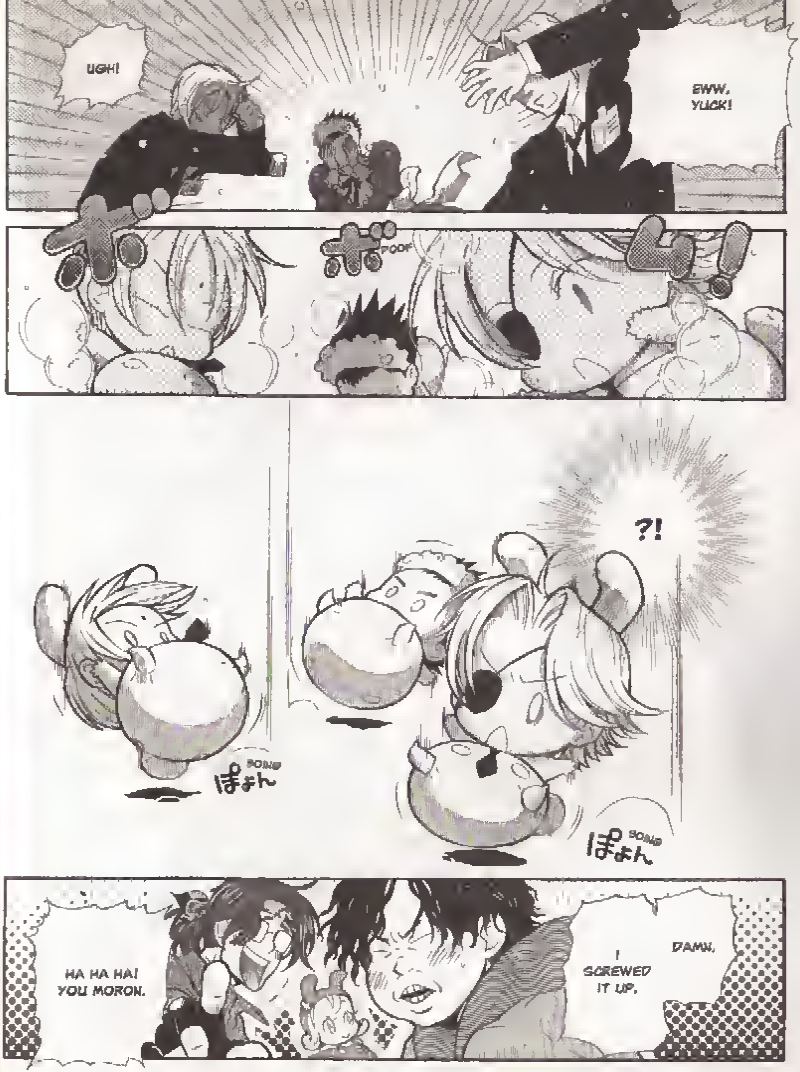
AAAH!
GIRLS!
SQUEAL!
THE FRUIT CIDERS SMACK THEIR LITTLE TUSHIES!
SO BUTT OUT... NOW!
SENPAI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THWAP
EEEK!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
RATTLE
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!
CLICK
NO! HER HEAD...!
CLACK
OUCH.
BEEP-BOOP, BZZT... SNAP.
CLANG

HEY GUYS, REVERSE THE MAGIC ON HIM, WILL YA?
OH, IT'S YOU, SHIBUYA.
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FRUIT CIDER GIRLS?
INTRUDERS!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T DO THAT.
It's just a doll...
WHY NOT?
THAT'S THE MAGIC THAT WILL SAVE THE WORLD.
BECAUSE...

GOD HAND...
AND MY
HIS GOD BREATH...
WITH HIS GOD FINGERS...
KAPOOM
WE ARE GODS!
IN A WORLD WITHOUT GIRLS...
OH MY GOD! MY CHEST!
GOD HAND!
BEHOLD!

AAAAAH
WAAA...
AAAH...
AAH...
AAA...
AA...
WOOSH
WOOSH

WOOO! WOO-HOO!! OH YEAH!!!
FLASH
FLASH
OH NO!
I'M A GIRL IN A MAID OUTFIT, JUST LIKE SHIBUYA!
GOD BREATH!
SHWOOSH!
HOW YOU GUYS ARE DEAD MEAT.
NO ONE ASKED YOU TO MAKE ANOTHER GIRL, YOU DUMB-ASSES.
TOMP
WE TOLD YOU TO TURN THIS THING BACK TO NORMAL!


UGH!
EWW, YUCK!
POOF
?!
BOING
ぽよん
BOING
ぽよん
HA HA HA! YOU MORON.
I SCREWED IT UP.
DAMN,

WAIT!
NO! SENPAAA!!!
WE'RE TAKING THIS ONE, THOUGH SEE YA!
QUICK, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
NIPPORI!!
SENPAAAAA~!
OINK
C'MON, SOTANDA. YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!
UGH...NO USE. LOOK AT US. WE LOOK LIKE BABY BUNNIES.

SIXTH INSTALLMENT:
A'S PASSION, PT. 2

HELP ME!!!!
NOOOOO!! SENPAAAAI!!
WOO-HOO!! WOO-HOO!!
NIPPOO-OOORI!!!!
WE'LL JUST DRIVE!
WAIT! WE HAVE THE CAR!
...
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KEEP UP LIKE THIS.
DAMN...NO USE. LOOK AT US! WE'RE LIKE BABY BUNNIES!
URNG-URNG...
UP YOU GO!
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T HAVE DRIVER'S LICENSES...
EXACTLY!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT CAN I SAY? TOUGH TIMES CALL FOR TOUGH MEASURES
ISN'T THERE SOME LAW AGAINST TODDLERS DRIVING CARS?
WHIMPER

HERE GOES!
GOTANDA, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF SHIFTING!
UGUI-SUDANI, YOU WORK THE PEDALS!
I'LL TAKE THE WHEEL!
HRRRM...
HEY! WE'VE GOTTA WORK TOGETHER HERE!
OH, MY!
HACK HACK
COUGH COUGH
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, SHIBUYA-!!
!... CAN'T... MOVE...!!
AAAAH!!
BRAKES! BRAKES!!!!
EEEEP! UGUISU-DANI!
UM... YOU'RE GROSSING ME OUT HERE...
LISTEN HERE, SHIBUYA... YOU'RE...

HOLY-! THIS PLACE IS CRAZY! LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF!
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "HARD-CORE"...
I MEAN, DUDE!
YEAH, I KNOW! THESE GIRLS OF YOURS JUST KEEP GETTIN' CUTER 'N CUTER!
THIS ONE'S WAY BETTER THAN CHIBILIA!
OH, DUDE... THAT IS SO TOTALLY HOT!
SHE IS SO MY TYPE!
I REALLY HOPE SENPAI COMES FOR ME..
BUT LOOK AT THESE! I'VE GOT BREASTS!
May as well see what they feel like

WHAT??!
I'M NOT EXACTLY A "SHE" YOU SEE. IT'S STILL THERE
UM, I HATE TO BREAK UP YOUR LITTLE PARTY THERE, BUT...
SEE? WHAT? I TELL YA?
HOW CAN I MAKE ONE WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN THE REAL THING??!!
SHUT UP!!!
MY MAGIC JUST KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER 'N BETTER! WE'RE ON OUR WAY, BOYS!
HMPH!
These guys are the creeps for real!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO DO WITH ME?
WE'RE GONNA TREAT YOU REAL NICE~
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
AWA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

GOTANDA, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OK GOING IT ALONE THIS TIME?
NAH, I WORK BETTER ALONE ANYWAY.
I feel really bad about all this.
CRASHING
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THEIR MAGIC'S NUTHIN' SPECIAL.
They've gotta be at one of these guys' addresses...
LIKE JUST NOW- ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS WAIT A LITTLE WHILE AND IT WEARS OFF.
AND BESIDES.
SHIN
SUSH
GOTANDA! DON'T ABANDON ME!!! PLEEEEASE!
WHIRL
THAT FREAK ON A LEASH OVER THERE IS GIVING ME THE WILLIES.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

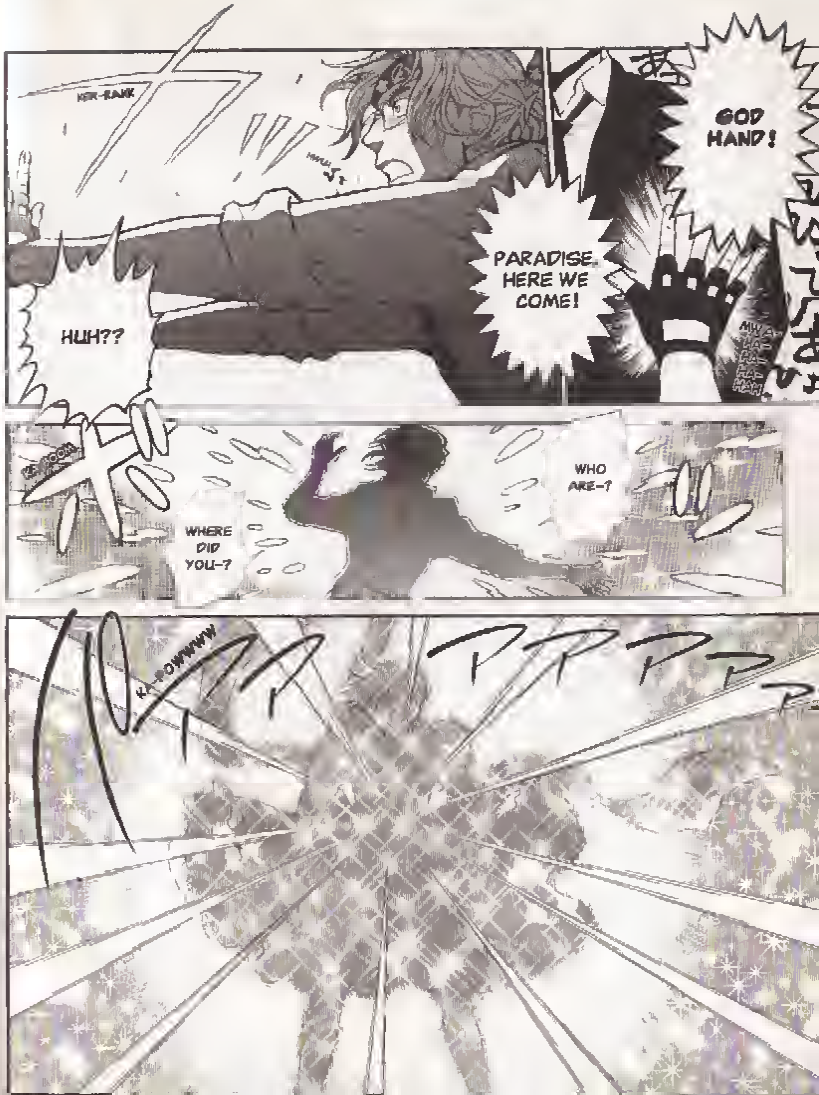
OH, UGUI-SUDANI...
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT YOU REALLY DO LOOK LIKE A FREAK.
C'MON, SHIBUYA...
I AIN'T FRIENDS WITH NO FREAKS LATER!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIENN-NNND!
PROOOOOO
WE'LL BE WAITING.
HURRY BACK, GO-TANDA!
THIS IS SO TOTALLY SWEET!
OH YEAH!
AHHH... NICE!
OOO, NOW A SEXY LITTLE DEVIL GIRL!
RRRRAWWW! A KITTY POSE!
HERE, LITTLE DEVIL GIRL! LOOKEE OVER THIS A-WAY!
HOO-HOO, SHE'S ANGRY! WE'RE SUCH BAD BOYS!
OO! OO! KEE-YEWT KITTY!

FWOOP
FWOOP
FWOOP
FWOOP
WEAR THIS!
FOR YOUR NEXT ONE...
FWOOP
RRRRRR RRRRRRRR RRRRR
RRRRRR RRRRR
RRRRRR
KER-CHOOOOOO!
BUT MINE'S GONNA LOOK BETTER!
NO! I PULLED [redacted] OUT FIRST!
MINE FIRST!
HEY!
WHY YOU...
BA-BA-BOOM
WHA-I

WHAT?!? YOU'RE GONNA CHANGE ME BACK?!
SHUDDER
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE HIM BACK!
SCRAMBLING FOR CLOTHES
DAMN! HE TURNED BACK INTO A DUDE...
THANK GOD! I'M BACK TO NORMAL!
SHUDDER
BUT WHY AM I NAKED?!?!
WAIT, THAT'S RIGHT...MY CLOTHES MUST'VE RIPPED.
STOP IT! THIS IS POINT-LESS!!
WAHHHHH!!!!!
OOF!
GOD HAND!
HI-YAH!
ZNGG

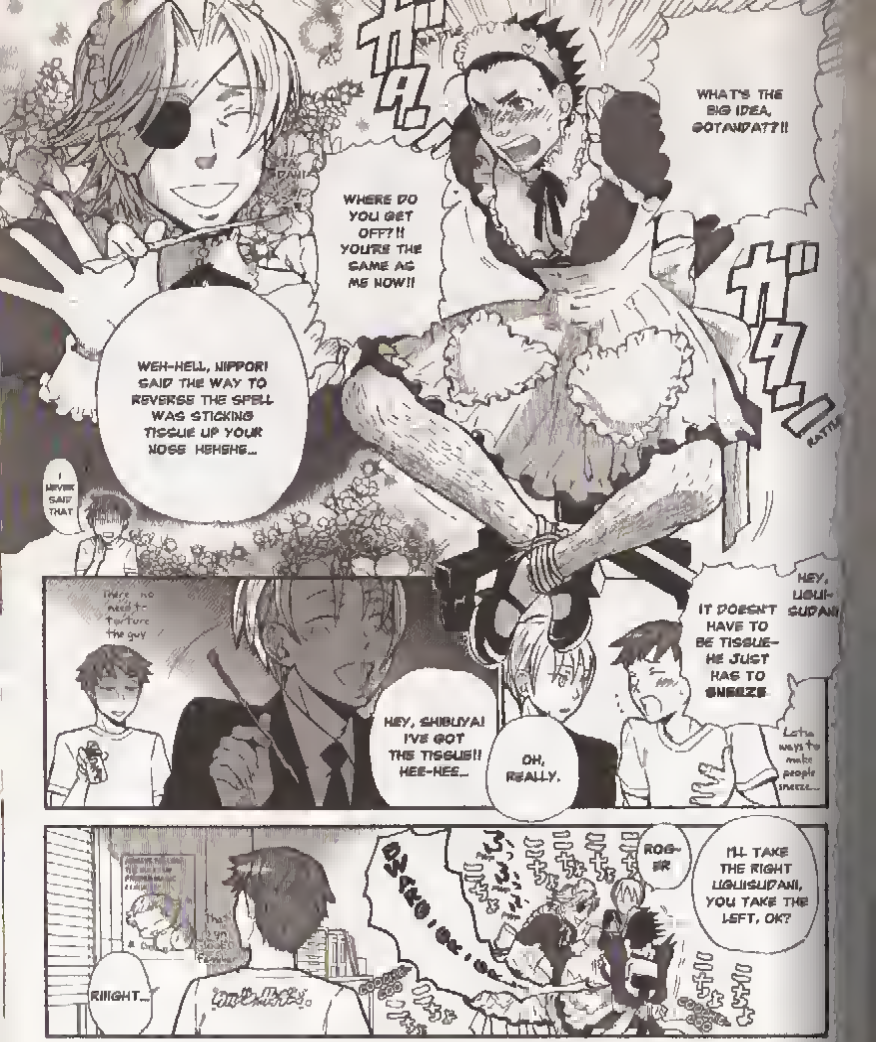
AAA-
AA-
A-
EKOOP
AAA...
AA...
AAAAAAA
AH-AHHH...
KA-BOOM
AWESOME!
HE wrecked my car!! HAT??!
I'M SO AWESOME!!

GOD HAND!
GOD, NO! DON'T DO IT!!
WHICH MEANS...
MMM... MMMMM...
OOOO! I'M GONNA EXPLODE!
ゴゴゴゴ ゴゴ
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
THE WORLD WILL BE MY OWN PRIVATE PARA-DISE!!!
NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW!!!


KER-RANK
HUH??
PARADISE, HERE WE COME!
GOD HAND!
KA-BOOM
WHERE DID YOU-?
WHO ARE-?
KA-POWWWW

I SCREWED UP!
OH NO!!! A... IT'S A...D-D-D-D-DRAG QUEEN!
HEY, BIG BOY...
WHATCHA THINK YOU'RE TRYIN' TA DO?
MY PARADISE IS RUINED!!
WHAT, YOU'RE ALREADY BACK TO NORMAL?
EE-HEE-HEE...
This is bad...
Hey, you don't look half bad
GENPAI?
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU..
WHY ISN'T MY MAGIC WORKING ANY-MORE??!!
ALL RIGHT, HERE GOES!!

I DID IT!!!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM AP-
-PLES...?
I THINK YOU'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL...
C'MON, SEN-PAI...
Why's he asking ME??
THAT THESE ARE ALL GUYS
RIGHT, NIPPORI?
TOO BAD...
WE'RE SORRY!
WE'RE SORRY!


WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, GOTANDA!?!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF?!! YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME NOW!!
WEH-HELL, NIPPORI SAID THE WAY TO REVERSE THE SPELL WAS STICKING TISSUE UP YOUR NOSE HEHEHE...
I NEVER SAID THAT
There's no need to torture the guy
HEY, SHIBUYA! I'VE GOT THE TISSUE!! HEE-HEE...
OH, REALLY.
HEY, UGUISUDANI
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TISSUE- HE JUST HAS TO SNEEZE
Lotta ways to make people sneeze...
ROG-ER
I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT UGUISUDANI, YOU TAKE THE LEFT, OK?
RIIGHT...

SEVENTH INSTALLMENT:
DELIVERY AT MIDNIGHT

I was helping the guys at the magic research lab move offices
when late that evening--
THERE! LAST ONE!
THWUMP
WHEW! I'M BEAT!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
I HOPE MY DEPARTMENT WON'T HAVE TO MOVE, TOO.
WELL, THERE SURE IS A LOT OF IT GOING ON, BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T BY NOW, YOU'RE PROBABLY FINE.
Such a hassle...
We always get the short end of the bromy stick!
ANYWAY, LET'S GET SOME FOOD. I'M STARVED.
GRUMBLE
YEAH.
GOOD IDEA.
HOW ABOUT I TREAT YOU TO DINNER FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK?
REALLY?!
I'LL GO GRAB MY STUFF!
OH, AND YOU CAN TAKE THESE TOO!
Try on the latest model!
N-NO... THANKS...

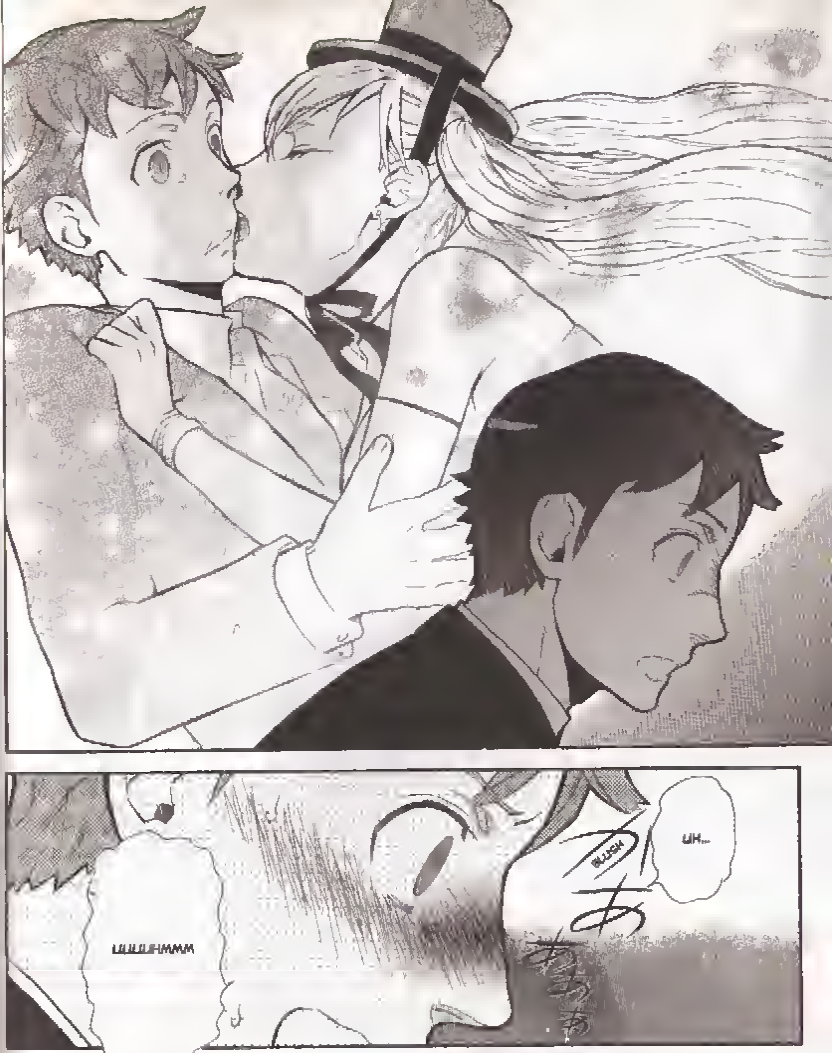
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
WAIT HERE OK?
OK, BUT HURRY!
I KNOW, BUT...
YOU LUCKY DUCK!
SENPAI'S BEEN REAL STRICT ABOUT OVERTIME, SO I'VE NEVER EVEN STAYED THIS LATE.
No Unpaid overtime
WOW, IT'S SO DARK OUT HERE!
DUH, OF COURSE IT IS! EVERYONE'S GONE HOME.
PEOPLE WOULD BE THE SCARIEST!
SINCE THEY'RE ALL WIZARD'S NOW!
TOTTER
TOTTER
WHO KNOWS WHO OR WHAT I'LL RUN INTO! IT'S LIKE THE TWILIGHT ZONE HERE...
SENPAI?
THE LIGHT'S ON...
WHA-?

NIPPON!? !!

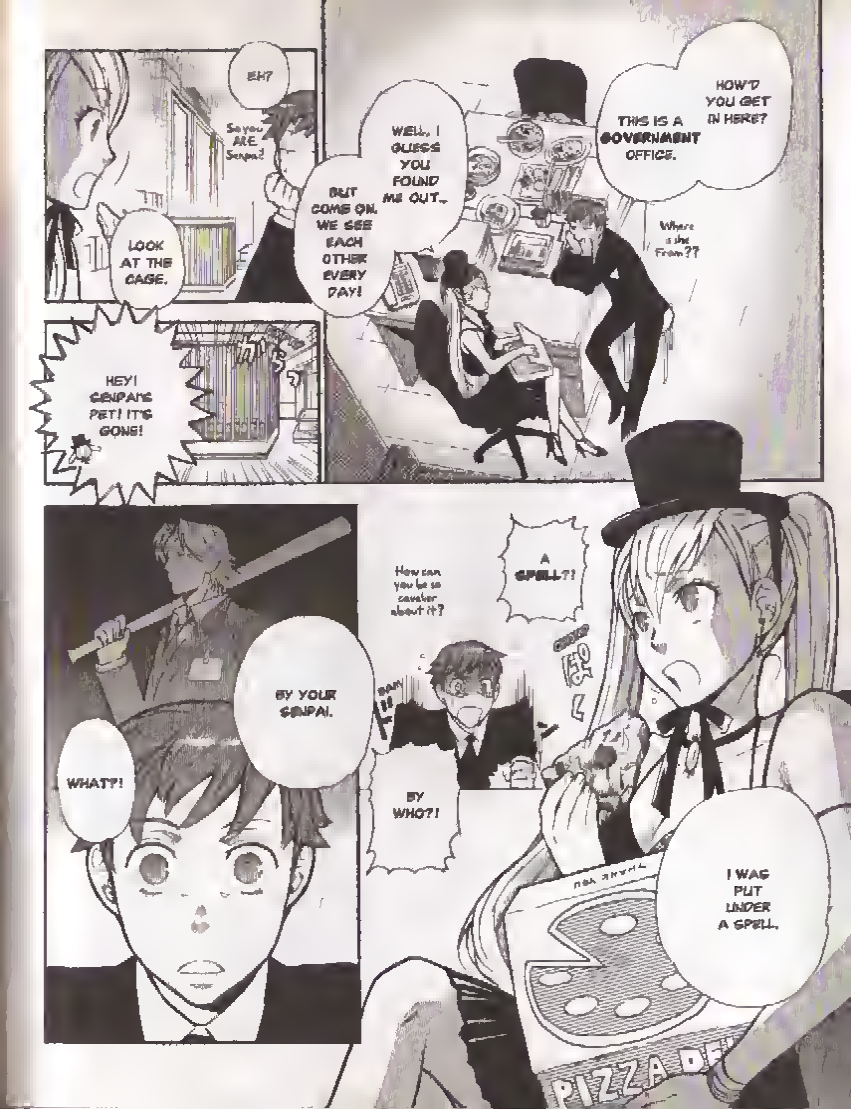
WAIT, MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THOSE WEIRD SPELLS AGAIN...!
BUT IT CAN'T BE-
A GIRL?!
UM, EXCUSE ME...
I must have the wrong room.
WAIT A SEC...
STATISTICS BUREAU MAGIC SECTION
No, it's right
SENPAI!!
BAM
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?!
UM, HELLO?

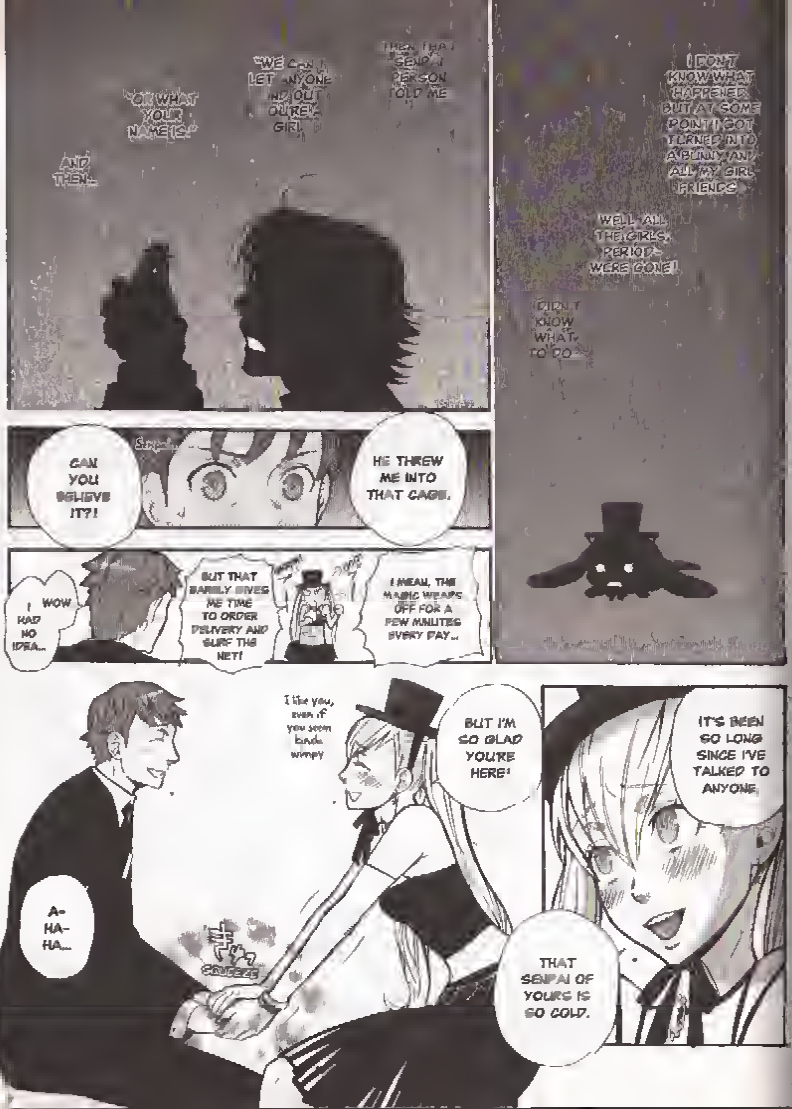
ぐちゃ
UNHOLY MESSINESS
...?
キィ
WHAT
IS THIS?
DARN IT...
A-HA!!

SENPAI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE?!
HM?
DARN...
GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING NOW.
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS?! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
HOW
HOW
THUM-THUM


UH...
BLUSH
UUUUHMMM

KYAAAAAAH!!!
THUNK
GAH!!
WAIT, A REAL GIRL?!
WHAT?!
S-SO
NO WAY!!
"WHAT"
What just happened...?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A REAL GIRL...
I-I'M... SORRY!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GRABBING?! PERV!!


I WAS PUT UNDER A SPELL.
PIZZA DE
A SPELL?!
How can you be so cavalier about it?
BY WHO?!
BY YOUR SENPAI.
WHAT?!
HEY! SENPAI'S PET! IT'S GONE!
LOOK AT THE CAGE.
EH?
So you ARE Senpai?
BUT COME ON, WE SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY!
WELL, I GUESS YOU FOUND ME OUT..
THIS IS A GOVERNMENT OFFICE.
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
Where is she from??


"OI! WHAT YOUR NAME IS?"
AND THEN...
"WE CAN LET ANYONE IN OUT OUTSIDE, GIRL."
THEN, THE GUARD PERSON TOLD ME
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT AT SOME POINT I GOT TURNED INTO A BUNNY AND ALL MY GIRL FRIENDS
WELL, ALL THE GIRLS, PERIOD, WERE GONE!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
HE THREW ME INTO THAT CAGE!!
I WOW I HAD NO IDEA...
BUT THAT BARELY GIVES ME TIME TO ORDER DELIVERY AND SURF THE NET!
I MEAN, THE MAGIC WEARS OFF FOR A FEW MINUTES EVERY DAY...
I like you, even if you seem kinda wimpy
BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE TALKED TO ANYONE.
A-HA-HA...
CRUSH
THAT SENPAI OF YOURS IS SO COLD.

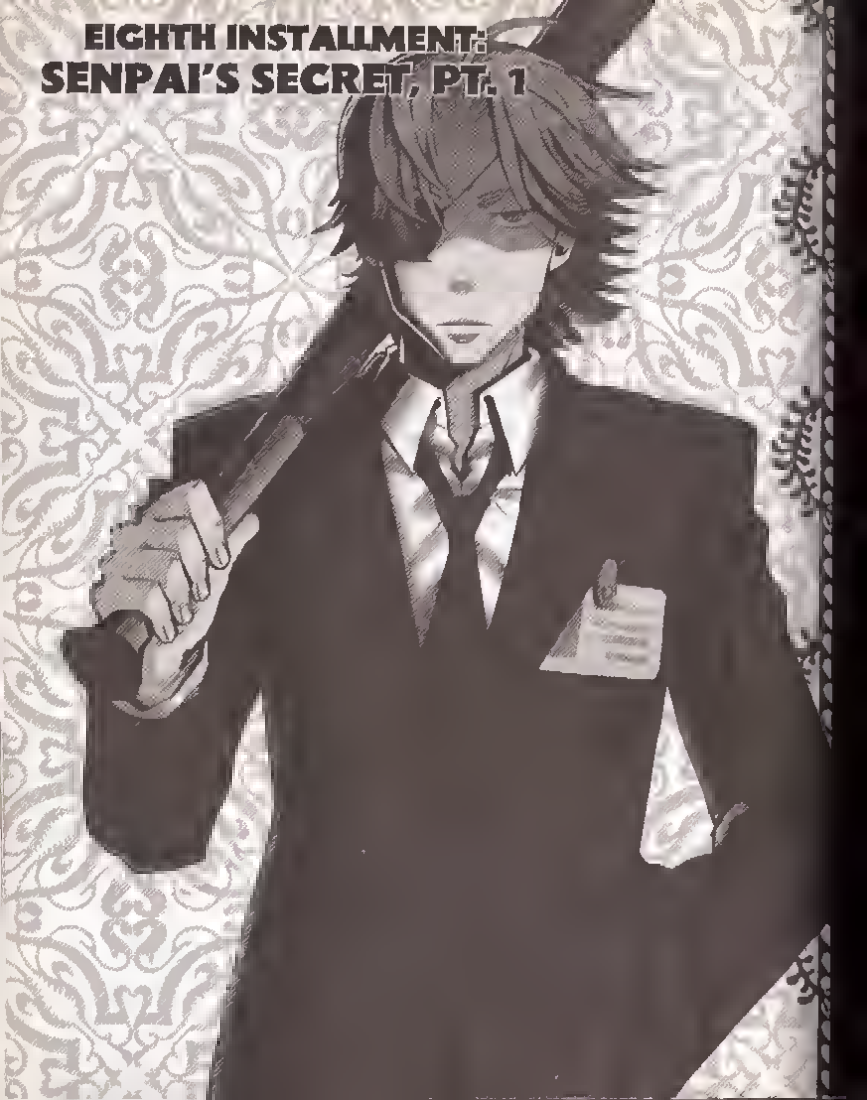
I-ON
HO
HSOOOOHM

YOU ARE TOTALLY A PERVERT!
LIKE, EWW!
EWW!
OK, WHATEVER YOU SAY...
Sorry...
BUT WHY...?
GUH!
I CAN'T USE MAGIC
WOULD YA?
UM... YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MAYBE CAST A SPELL ON ME...
TIME'S UP...
BYE-BYE
BUT... WAIT!
WHAT IS IT?
OH...
Is it all in my head??
OH SHOOT!
HM. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

OH...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?!
ガシ
GUSH-TUNK
YUUKI!!!
SHE WASN'T KIDDING...
PUNK
ちょこん
THAT'S SO-!
CHOCO
ちょこ

YOU'RE GOING THROUGH THIS...
ALL ALONE?
I'LL COME BACK AND SEE YOU.
I...
HEY NIPPORI!
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
OH! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
I PROMISE!

EIGHTH INSTALLMENT:
SENPAI'S SECRET, PT. 1



Something's been bothering me lately.
KRR
KRR
KRR
ONE SKEWERED CENTIPEDE, COMIN' UP!
ALTHOUGH WHY THEY'VE GOT US RUNNIN' AROUND EXTERMINATING BUGS NOW, I'LL NEVER KNOW...
WELL...
UH... SURE.
BUT GHOOT, I'M HUNGRY. C'MON, NIPPORI... LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
And that something is my senpai—Gotanda
What I can't figure out is why he'd want to turn poor Yuki into a bunny and then keep it a secret from me.
HEY! KNOCK, KNOCK!

HEY!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HERE. GIMME THOSE
SOMETHIN' WRONG?
YOU BEEN LOOKIN' A LITTLE OUT OF IT LATELY.
She said it was supposed to be a secret...
LEMME SEE HERE...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
-WHAT?
NO, I'M... UM...
But maybe if I just talked to him about it...There could be a perfectly reasonable explanation.
WELL JUST CALL THIS GOOD HERE AND UH, LET'S SEE...
FOR CHRISSAKE, PULL IT TOGETHER!
OK, SENPA-

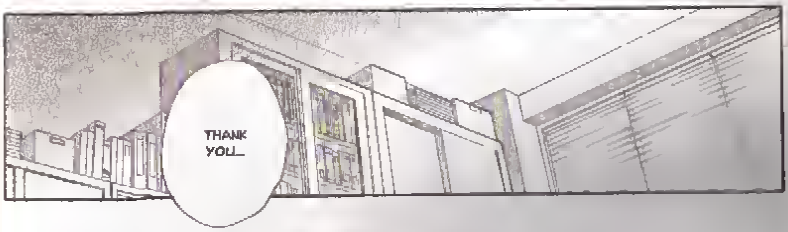
S-H-O-C-K

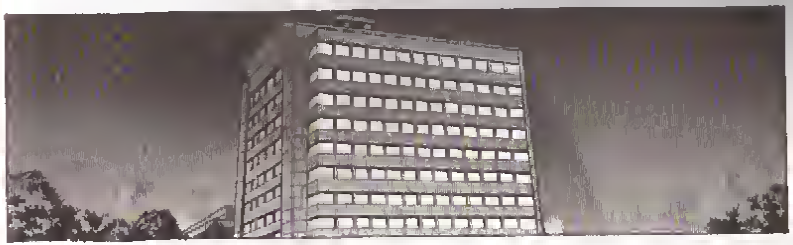
NIPPORI?!!
FWOOSH
AAAAAAAH!!!!
あああああ
UH... NOTHING
THA THUMP
THA THUMP
IT HAPPENED AGAIN!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON WITH YOU?
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHA-
AAAH, HAAAH, UHHHH...
I'd have to call it magic but HOW?
If I had to say what's causing this
WHAT, YOU MEAN THOSE WEIRD VISIONS YOU SEE?
YEAH.
I THINK I'M TURNING INTO A WIZARD
YOU KNOW WHAT?

SO, LIKE... MAYBE YOU KILL YOUR SENPAI, FOR EXAMPLE?
WITH MAGIC!
I don't know WHAT I'd do if my visions somehow came true...
I REALLY WANT TO TALK TO SENPAI ABOUT THIS
BUT THEN... WELL, HE USED MAGIC ON YOU, RIGHT?
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN THINK I'D KILL SENPAI?!!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
WELL...IT'S SO SUSPENSEFUL!! AND WOULDN'T IT BE EXCITING?
PLUS...
And then there's YOU
You'd have to disappear...

So it's a MAGIC bat, huh?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AHH, NO- THING
I WAS THINKING IT SEEMS JUST LIKE A NORMAL BAT.
SWP
HMM...
GOTANDA, TAKESHI
NAME
UNASSIGNED
CLASS
YOU KNOW,
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SENPAI...
I MEAN... ER, THAT IS...
What are you implying???
STOP IT!!
MAY I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO READ INTO THAT?
EXCUSE ME!!
I MEAN, WE'RE TOGETHER EVERY DAY, BUT...

THE ONE I WANT TO HELP IS...YOU.


THANK YOU...



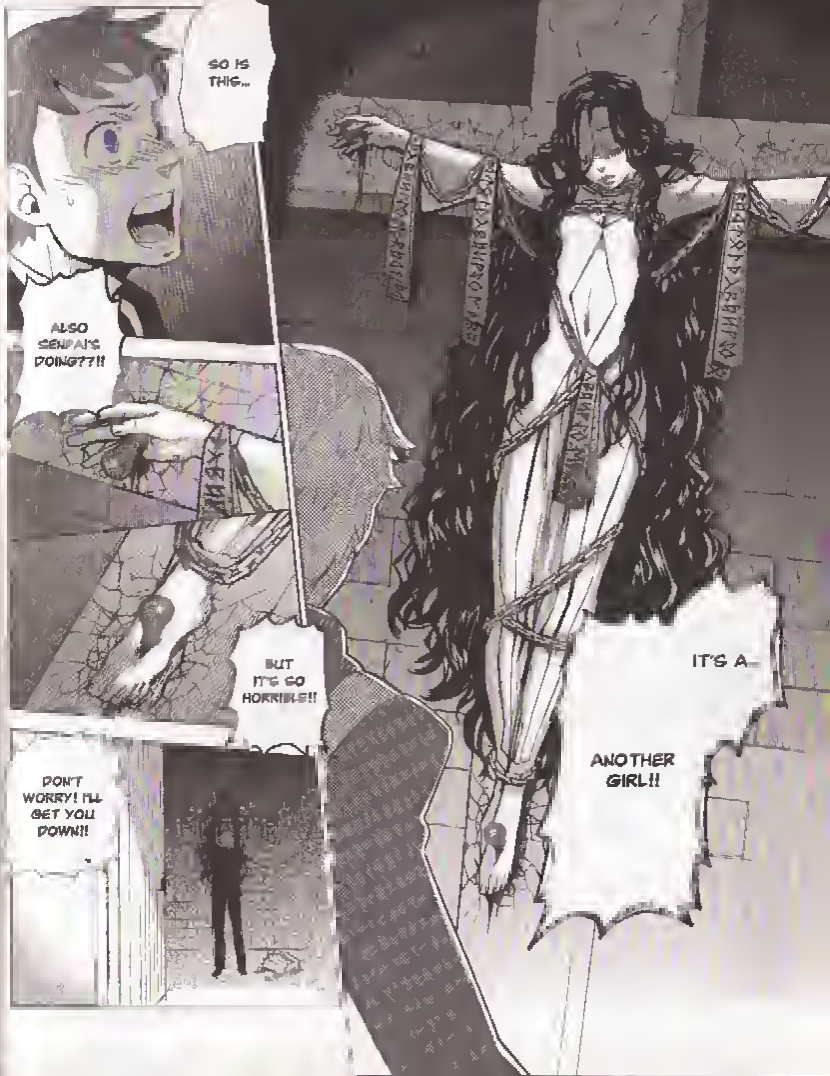
THE FIRST THING I HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT
ニヤ ニヤ
WHAT SENPAI DOES EVERY DAY!
SO THERE MUST BE SOMETHING HE DOES AT THIS TIME EVERYDAY.
HE NEVER PUTS IN ANY OVERTIME...
RAM
RAM
ガチャ

THAT'S IT????!
HE'S JUST A REGULAR GUY? WHO JUST REALLY HATES OVER-TIME...??!!
NOTHING!!
GA-GONNG
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S PLANNING ON MEETING ANYONE...
HE KEEPS HEADING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CITY.
SHOULD I KEEP GOING?

WOW, I HAD NO IDEA!
SO SENPAI'S SOME RICH KID??
FWOOOOO
I MEAN HOW ELSE WILL I FIND OUT ABOUT THE REAL SENPAI?
Oops, it opened...!
I THINK I'LL TRESPASS JUST THIS ONCE.
HMM...
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
BUT... UM...

WHOOP
MY BODY IS..
MOVING ON ITS OWN!
FWEEEEEEEE
?!
SO DARK!!
AH!
AH!
AH!
SO CRAMPED!
CLOMP
カッ
CLOMP
カッ
SEN-PAAAA!!
AWAK
WHOA!
AA!
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
オオオ
WOO-OO-
AA!
AA!
AA!
CLOMP
カッ
CLOMP
カッ
GHOSTS!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME??!

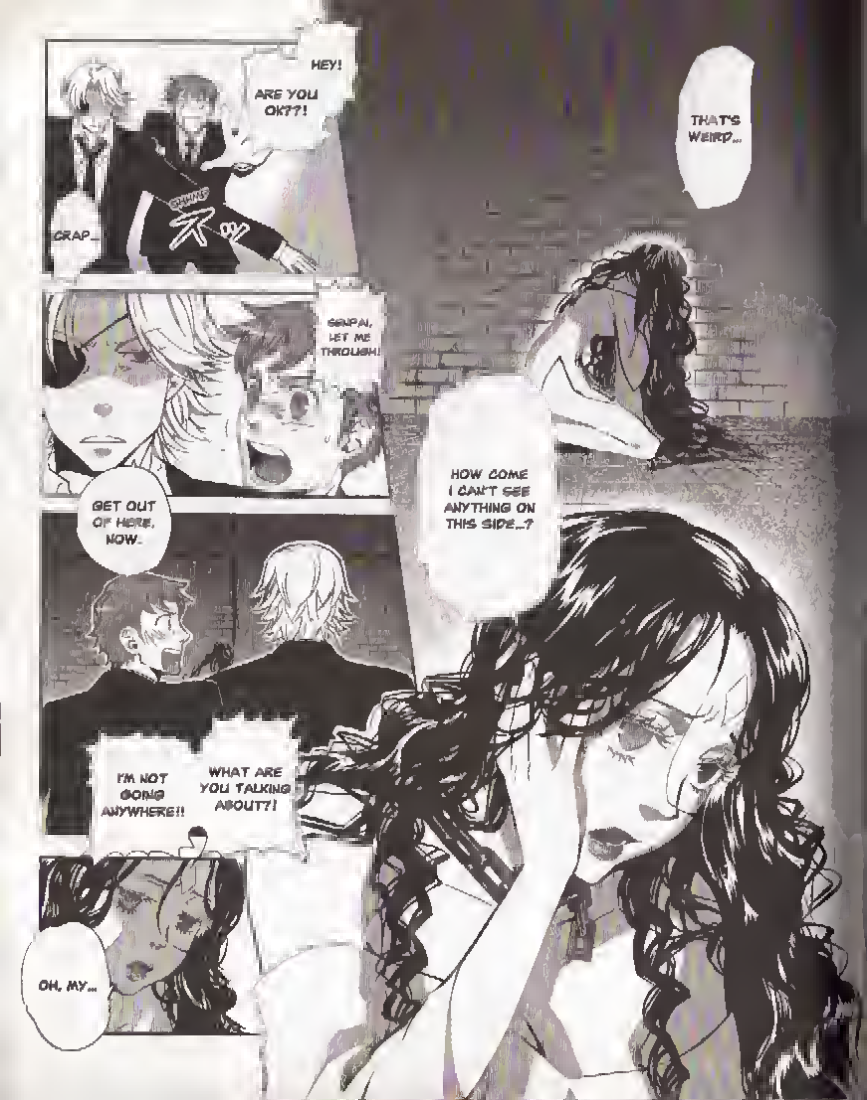
WHEW, IT'S GONE! I'M IN CONTROL OF MY BODY AGAIN!
HEH HEH HEH
BLINK
AAI
はっ
CREEEEEAK
キィィィィィ
WAH HA HA HA HA
あはははは
WHOA! AMAZING!!
ALL THE DOORS ARE AUTO-MATIC!
WHAT A HOUSE!!
BUT WHERE THE HECK AM I...?
...UH?!


SO IS THIS...
ALSO SENPAI'S DOING??!!
BUT IT'S SO HORRIBLE!!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET YOU DOWN!!
IT'S A...
ANOTHER GIRL!!

STAY WITH ME!!
HEY! WAKE UP!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT??!!

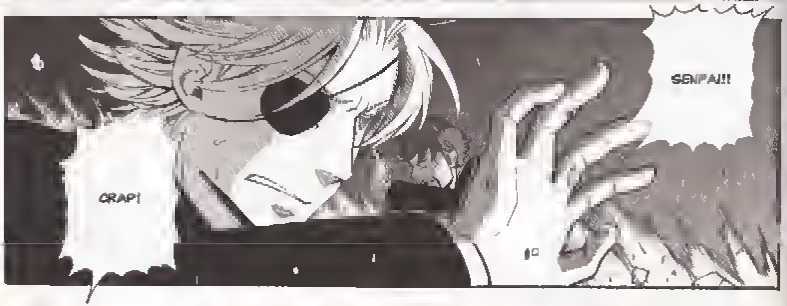
NINTH INSTALLMENT:
SENPAI'S SECRET, PT. 2

VWWWAP
HRNGH!
WHAM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!!
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION!
MWHHHH


HEY!
ARE YOU OK??!
GRAP
THAT'S WEIRD...
SENPAI, LET ME THROUGH!
HOW COME I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ON THIS SIDE...?
GET OUT OF HERE, NOW.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
OH, MY...

YOU'RE HERE!
MY BEAUTIFUL BIG BROTHER!
WHAT??!
OH..THAT'S RIGHT...
.....

KOK
WHOA!
THAT GIRL YUKI IS STILL AROUND, ISN'T SHE?


SENPAI!!
CRAP!

THAT GIRL JUST GETS IN THE WAY.
BOOM
I HAVE TO GET RID OF HER... I HAVE TO...
BOOM
AAAAA!
AA!
AA!
RUMBLE
AA!
A!
AA!
A!

SENPAI??!
UNGH!
WHAT'S -?!
GOD-DAMN IT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I thought I was a spinner.
WHERE THE HECK AM I?
AA!
AAAAA!
AAAH!
ALL RIGHT -
I'M WHAAAT??!!!
ズゴ
KRRR
KRRR
ズ!!
YOUR HOUSE!! THAT HUGE MANSION OF YOURS!! WHAT HAPPENED???!!
YOU'RE PAYING THE DAMAGES IS WHAT BUT THAT'S FOR LATER

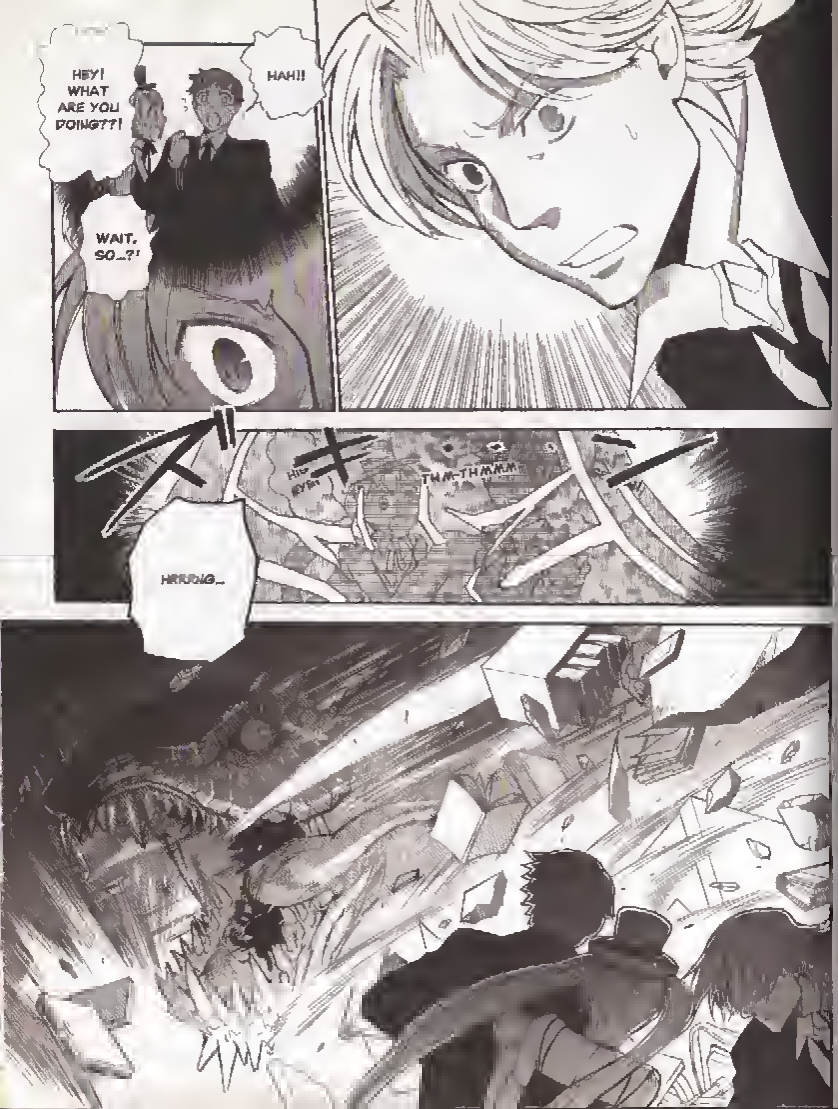
WAIT!!
BUT-
BUT-!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!!
BUT GENPAI!!
SHE'S THE ONE.
THE ONE WHO MADE ALL THE WOMEN DISAPPEAR.
WELLLL...I HAD HER ALL SEALED AWAY AND I WAS KEEPING WATCH OVER HER.
HUH?

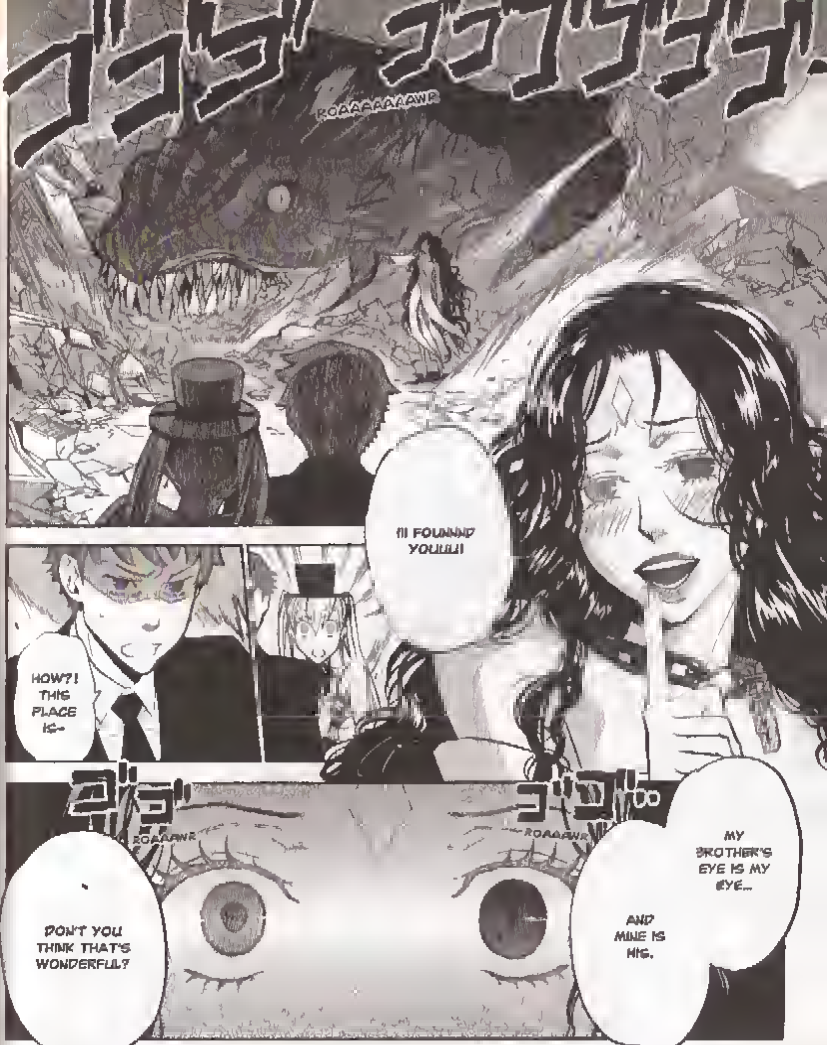
WHO THE HELL'S "YUKI"?
WHAT ABOUT YUKI, THEN?
I MEAN...
EH?
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
HAH HAH HAH!
I REMEMBER HER SAYING THAT NAME.
GULP
SHE READ YOUR MIND.
YOU KNOW! THE SUNNY GIRL!!
OH, MAN
THAT EX-PLAINS IT
SO WHAT HAPPENS... TO YUKI??

YUKI!!!!!!
JUST–!
JUST GIVE ME A SECOND!
OH, THANK GOD! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OK!!
YES, YES, I'M STILL HERE!
WHA–?!
SHHH! I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ORDERING DELIVERY
HUNH?
SO…DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT?
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!!!!
MMMM

SO, THEN...
RIGHT.
SO SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULD SAVE. PURE LUCK — SHE JUST HAPPENED TO BE CLOSE BY. SO I WAS ABLE TO GET TO HER IN TIME.
THAT'S CRAZY!
BUT THAT MEANS I'M THE ONLY GIRL LEFT, IN THE WHOLE WORLD.
BUT HEY, AT LEAST YOU'RE GONNA BE OK, RIGHT?
MIDNIGHT'S COMING UP FAST. SO YOU'LL BE A BUNNY AGAIN SOON!

RIGHT?
RIGHT, SENPAI?
!!
YOU-!
NIPPORI!!!
!!!


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HAH!!
WAIT, SO...?!
THM-THMMM
HRRRNG...


ゴゴゴ ゴゴゴゴゴ
ROAAAAAAWR
!!! FOUNND YOUUU!
HOW?! THIS PLACE IS--
ゴゴゴ
ROAAAWR
ゴゴゴ...
ROAAAWR
MY BROTHER'S EYE IS MY EYE...
AND MINE IS HIS.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S WONDERFUL?

COME ON!
I'M SORRY!!
AAAH!
I FEEL SO SAD...
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE NICE TO ME?
YOU BETTER TAKE YUKI AND CLEAR OUT OF HERE...NOW!
SENPAI!!
NICE AIN'T WHAT YOU NEED, SIS.

TENTH INSTALLMENT:
SENPAI'S SECRET, PT. 3

SENPAI!!!!
KA-BOOOOOM
WAAAA-AAAH!!
KYAA-AAAH!!
!!
GWWOOP
LET'S GO!!
IT'LL BE MIDNIGHT SOON
BUT UNTIL THEN WE RUN!

HEY
NIP-PORI-
PANT
PANT
HOLD UP A SEC!
YEAH, I'M OK.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I'M SORRY!
Was I running too fast?
I NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH.
!!
Is this--?

I think I've seen this before!
I think...
Just like this...
UH...
Just like that!
UM, HELLO?
NIPPON!, SNAP OUT OF IT!
BUT IT COULDN'T-!

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANNA SAY TO ME??!
HURRY!!
WAIT! WAIT! SLOW DOWN!!
WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!!
UM, ALL RIGHT...
That's true, huh.
AAAAAAAH!!

SORRY I'M LATE! HEE-HEE!
ROAAR
ROAAR
ROAR
ROAAAAR
!!
SENPAI!!

WHAT'S GOING ON??!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DID THAT!
TIME TO SAY "BYE BYE"!
WOOOOOOH
NO!!
YUKI!!!!

H-HELP ME...!!
YUKI!!
……
スッ

HEH HEH
ふふ…
FWHP
MWAHAHA
あはは
WAH HAH HAH
あはは
WHA-?
WHER-?
HAHAHAHA
はは
HEH HEH
ふふ…
WAH HAHAHAHA
あはは
I FEEL REBORN!
AHHHH, THAT WAS PERFECT!!
WAH HAHAHAHA
あはは

NOW THE ONLY WOMAN LEFT IN THE WORLD IS ME!!
AND MY BIG BROTHER IS ALL MINE!!!!
YOU DID ALL THIS...??!
THAT'S WHY...
IT'S SO... WONDERFUL...
SO YES... THAT'S WHY.
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF COMPETING WITH OTHER GIRLS!
IT HAS TO BE 100% ME!

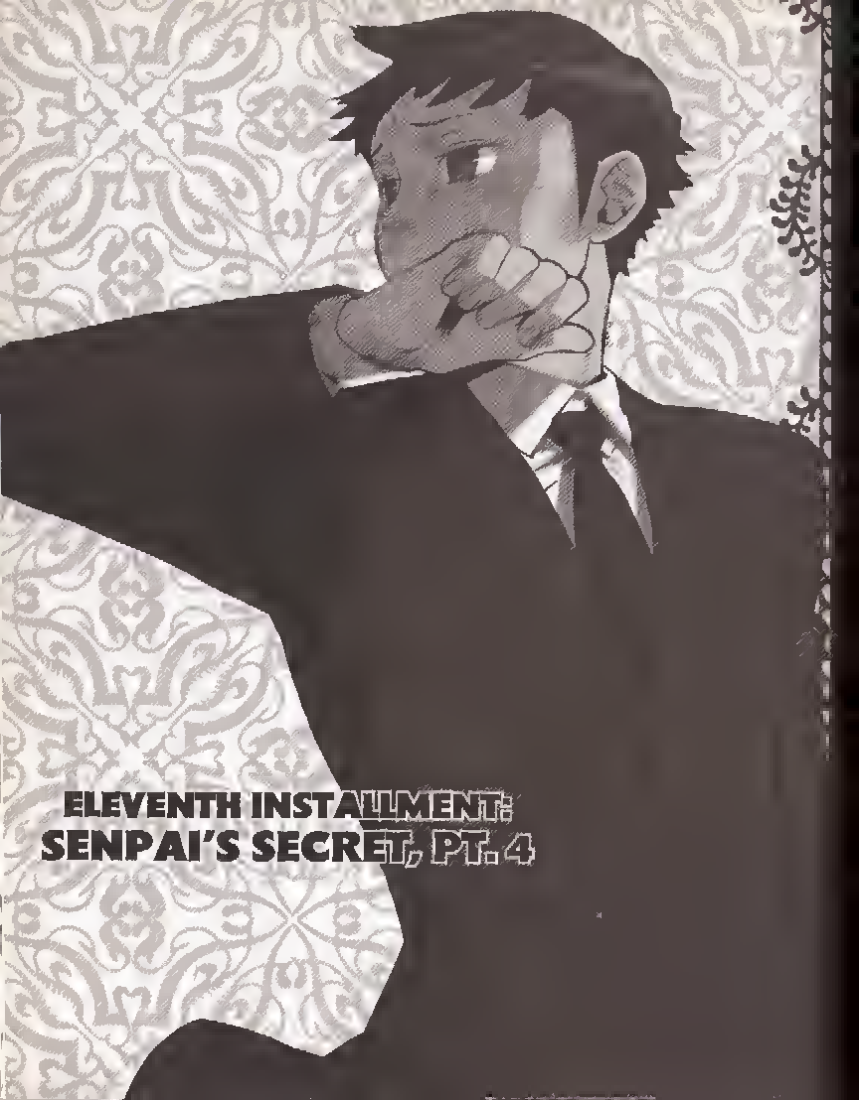
IF MY BROTHER WON'T COME HOME WITH
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET RID OF EVERYONE ELSE NOW, WON'T I?
AND THEN IT'LL BE JUST THE TWO OF US...
FROM NOW ON, THE ONLY GIRL REFLECTED IN HIS BEAUTIFUL EYES WILL BE ME!
TWITCH
HUUUH...
HE'S JUST SO IRRESISTIBLE! HEE HEE!
KRRRNK
YOU ARE SO DEAD...

GRRRRRNSHK
GLRRRRSHK
GWUH
GUH
GUH
AAA
AAA
AA
AA
.....
AA

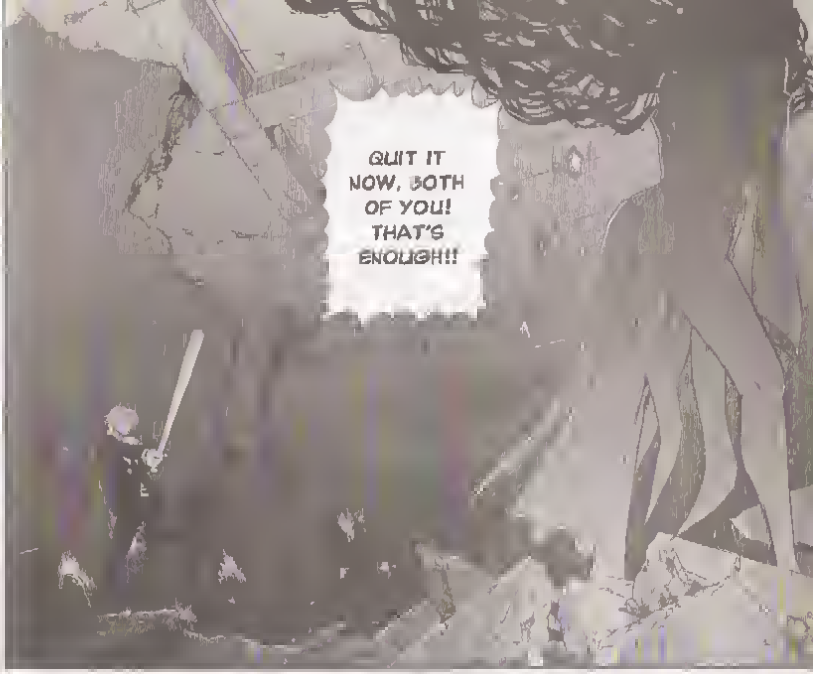
HYAAAAAAA
GYAAAH
HYAA
WHAAAAAAH
WAA-I
GYAAAAAA
S-S-SEN-PAI...??
THIS IS GOODBYE, SIS.
HYAAAAAA
WHAAAAA
WAA

I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOU.
HOW...
COULD...
YOU...?!
NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DISAPPEAR
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE LIKE THAT?!!!!
GUIT IT! BOTH OF YOU!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
STEP ASIDE, NIPPORI.
NO! NOW THAT'S ENOUGH!



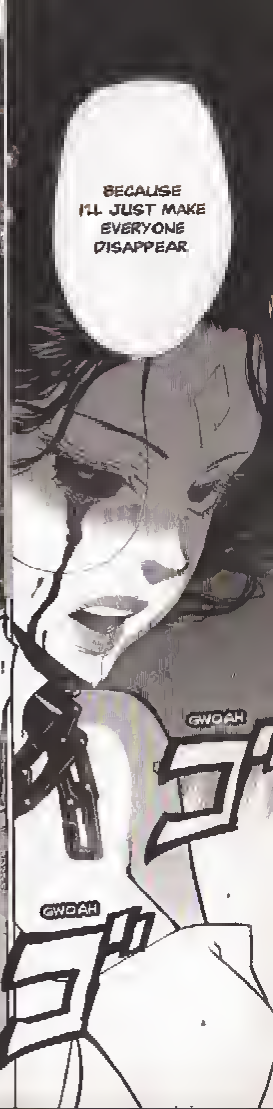
ELEVENTH INSTALLMENT:
SENPAI'S SECRET, PT. 4


QUIT IT NOW, BOTH OF YOU! THAT'S ENOUGH!!

GRAB
IT'S NOT RIGHT!!
PEOPLE CAUSING OTHERS TO DISAP-PEAR...
I MEAN, PEOPLE DISAP-PEARING...
.....

YES, BUT... HOW IS THIS GOING TO BRING HER BACK?
I MEAN, IT'S POINTLESS.
FLING
SENPAI, LISTEN TO ME!
YOU SAW YUKI DISAPPEAR, DIDN'T YOU? ISN'T THAT REASON ENOUGH?!
AND BESIDES, SHE'S YOUR SISTER!
GO PLEASE...!
BOTH OF YOU!
CAN'T YOU JUST QUIT THIS?!
HEE-HEE
HE'S RIGHT IT IS POINTLESS!

AAAH!
MY ARM!!
KWAP


BECAUSE
I'LL JUST MAKE
EVERYONE
DISAPPEAR
GWOAH
GWOAH

WHAAAA!
AAAAAAAH!!
AA!!!
SHOOOOP
NIPPON!!!

TAKITORI
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...
JUST ME AND MY BROTHER— IN A WORLD OF OUR OWN!
GRIP AT

YOU NEED TO STOP THIS NOW.
OH, TAKESHI...

MY BEAUTIFUL BIG BROTHER
NO...!
SWOOSHHHHH

WOOOH
NOOOOO!
WOH
AA!!
HYAAA!
WAAA!!!
AA!!
GOOD-BYYYYYYYE!
NO-!
URGH!!
PLEASE...
NOOO...!

GWUH!
I CAN'T STOP THIS...
YOU KNOW
THAT WAS... FOOLISH...
GWOAH
ALL I WANTED...
WAS JUST...
GROAR
GROAR
MY BIG BROTHER ALL I WANTED WAS YOU.

YANK
!!
WHAAH!
AAAA
AAA
AA
OH NO!
AAA
AA
AA
NOT SENPAI TOO!

SENPAI!
PLEASE DON'T DISAPPEAR!
ズ
ZPM
ズ
ZPM
ズ
ZPM
NO!!
DASH
STAY... BACK...

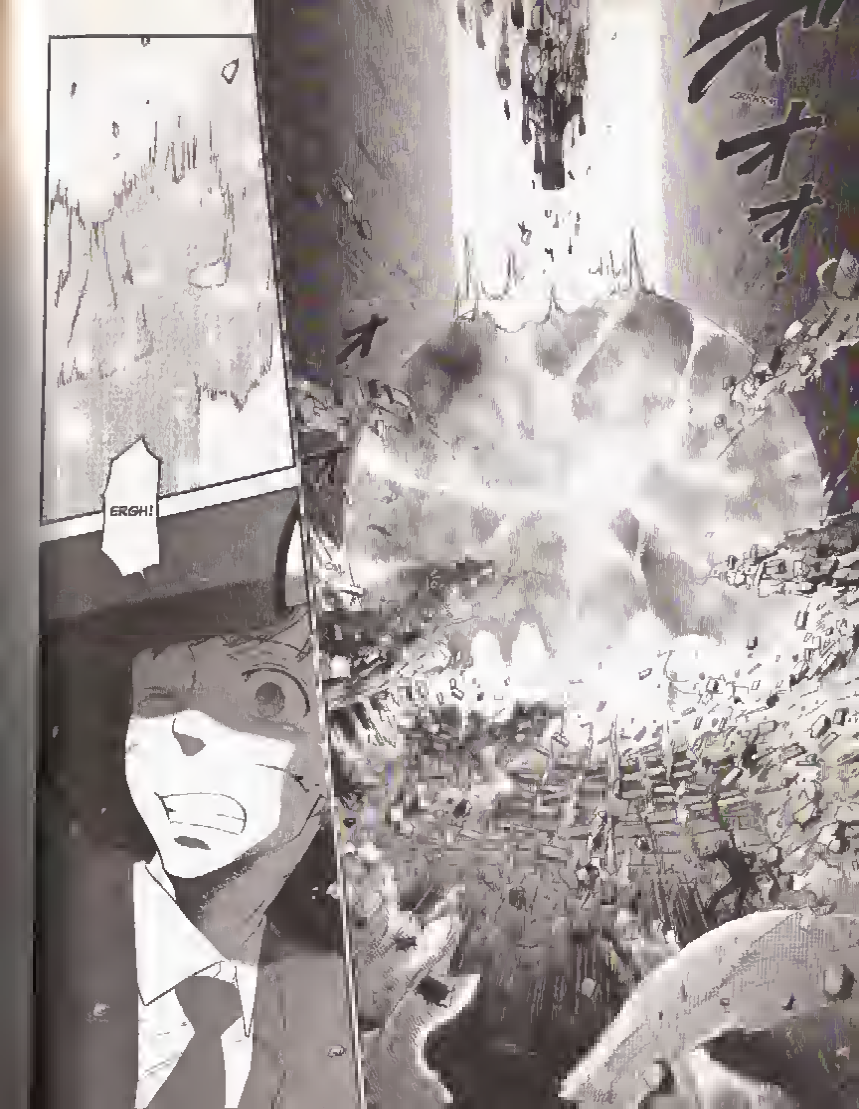
SENPAI?

SENPAI?!
OH, SENPAI
THANK GOD YOU'RE STILL HERE!
SEN-PAI~?
W-WAIT UP!
SENPAI...???

WHOOMP
WHOA!
WHOOMP
WHA-?!
KER-RONK-RONK
WHAAA
AAA
AA
AAA
AAA
AA

SENPA-
!!!
KA-BOOOOOOM

TWELFTH INSTALLMENT:
BEGINNING OF THE END

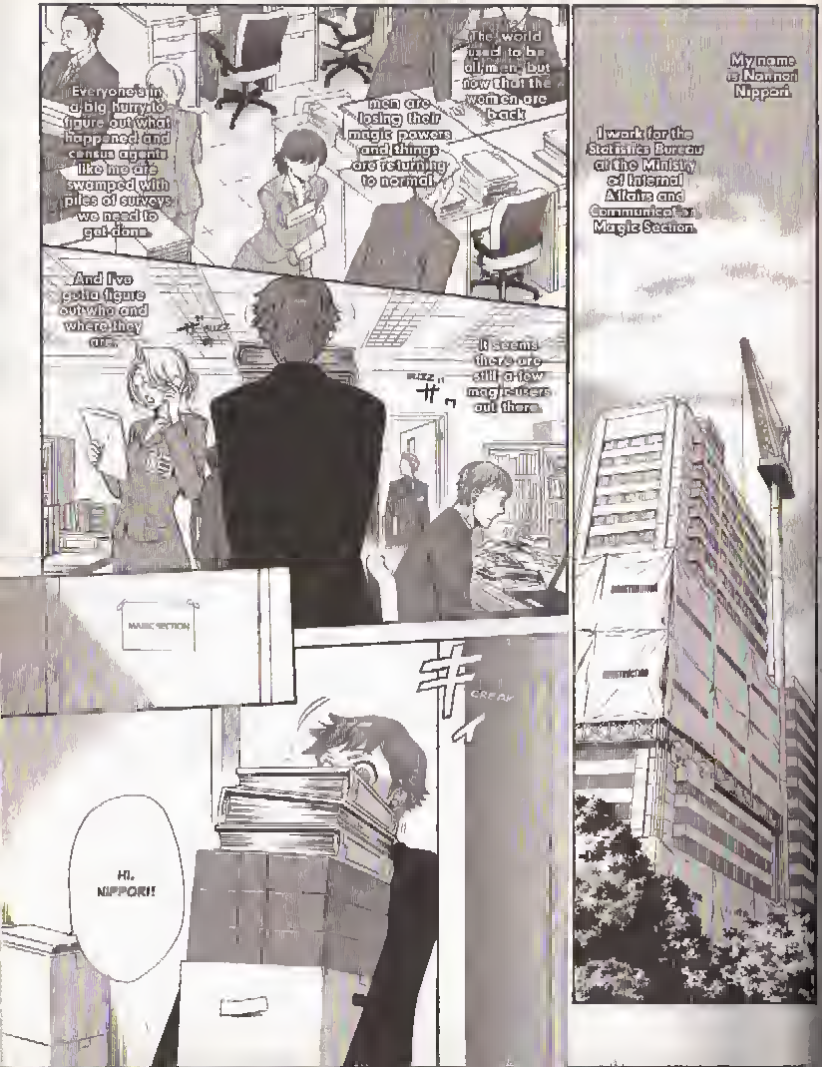

ERGH!

SENPAAAAI!!!

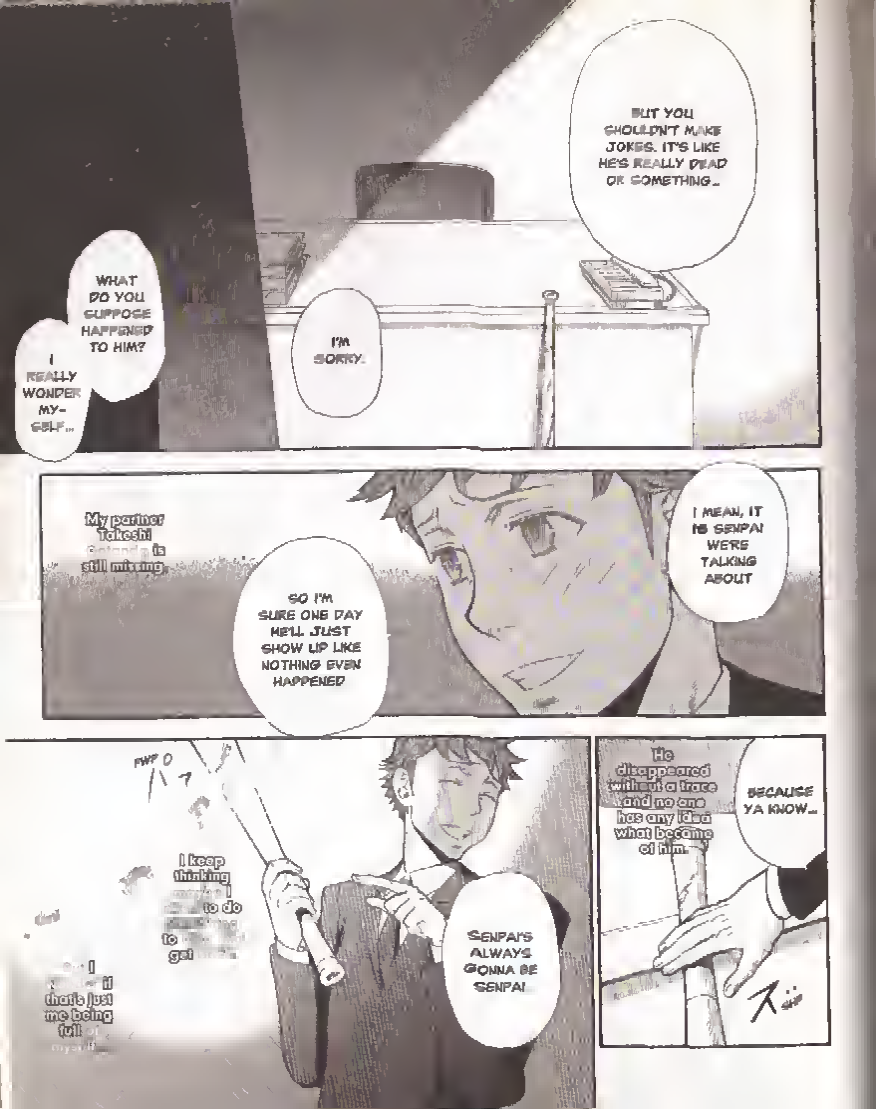
THUNDER

GULP-AL_T
SPLASH
DWAH-HUH!

.....
SENPAI...

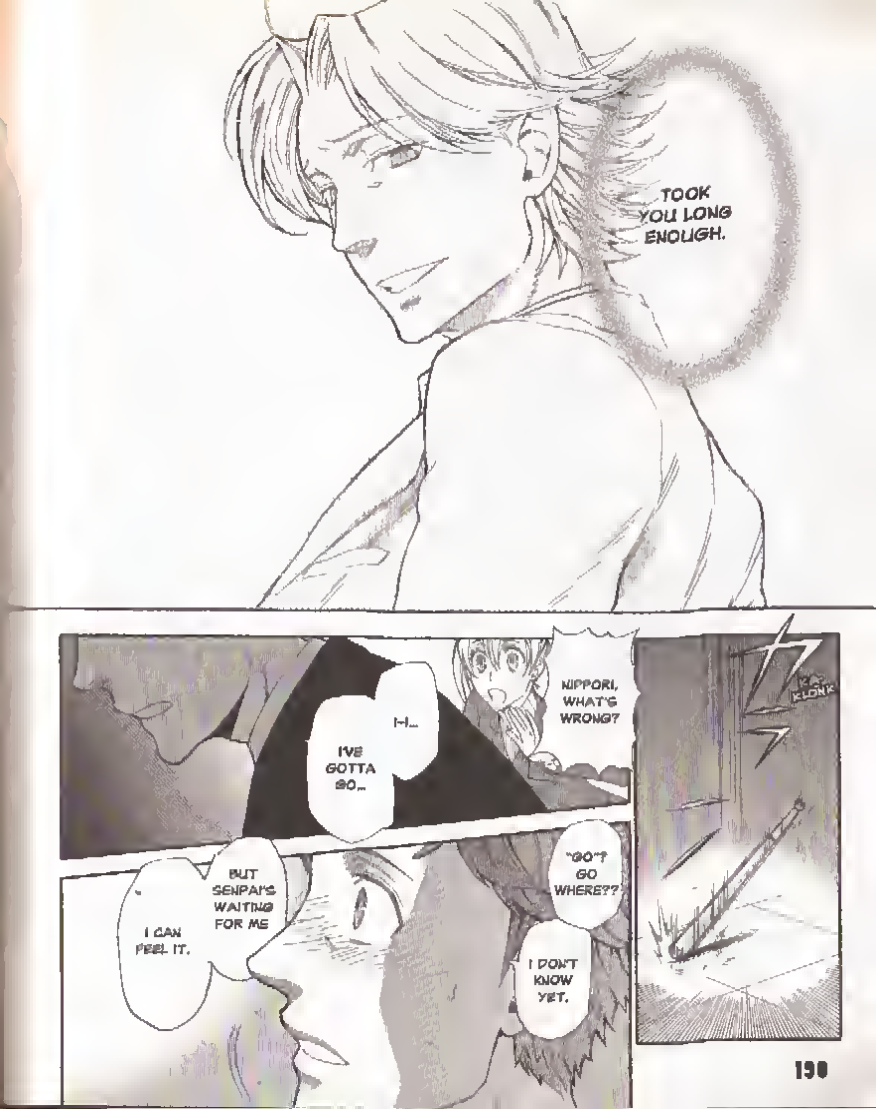

My name is Nannori Nippori.
I work for the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' Magic Section.
The world used to be all men, but now that the women are back
men are losing their magic powers and things are returning to normal.
Everyone's in a big hurry to figure out what happened and census agents like me are swamped with piles of surveys we need to get done.
And I've gotta figure out who and where they are.
It seems there are still a few magicians out there.
MAGIC SECTION
GREAT
HI, NIPPORI!

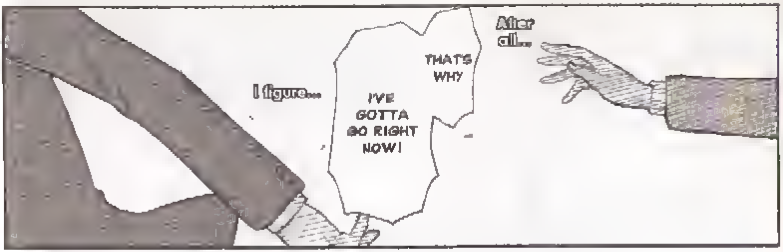
REALLY?
OH?
THESE FLOWERS WERE SO CUTE I JUST HAD TO BUY SOME.
HOW ARE YA?
Ever since then
Yuki's been working here with me at Magic Section.
YUKI!!
THERE. THAT'S PERFECT.
WELL, THE PLACE JUST FELT SO EMPTY...
I DUNNO. I GET A REALLY BAD FEELING WHEN I SEE FLOWERS IN HERE!
DON'T THEY LOOK BEAUTIFUL?
.....


I REALLY WONDER MY-SELF...
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENED TO HIM?
I'M SORRY.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE JOKES. IT'S LIKE HE'S REALLY DEAD OR SOMETHING...
My partner Takeshi is still missing.
SO I'M SURE ONE DAY HE'LL JUST SHOW UP LIKE NOTHING EVEN HAPPENED
I MEAN, IT IS SENPAI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
FWP
I keep thinking I to do to get
I that's just me being full
SENPAI'S ALWAYS GONNA BE SENPAI
He disappeared without a trace and no one has any idea what became of him.
BECAUSE YA KNOW...

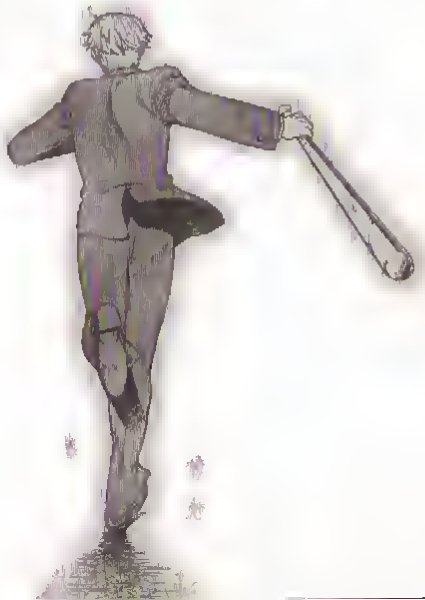
SWISH
It couldn't be...
was that?
SENPAI?!

Senpai!!
GOTANDA!!


TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
NIPPORI, WHAT'S WRONG?
I-I...
I'VE GOTTA GO...
"GO"? GO WHERE??
I DON'T KNOW YET.
BUT SENPAI'S WAITING FOR ME
I CAN FEEL IT.
KLONK

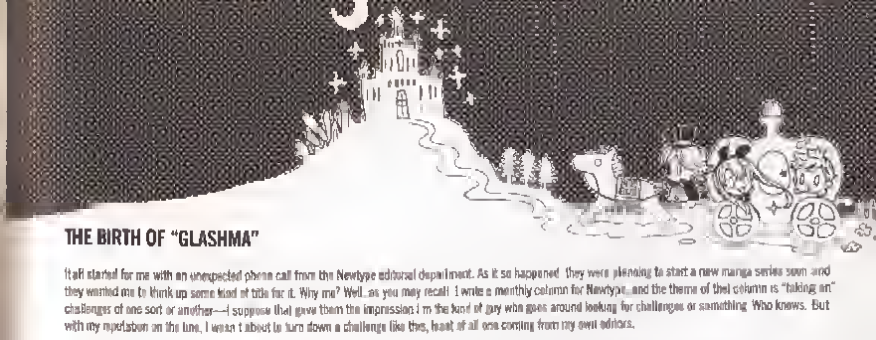


It's my turn to help SENPAI out of a jam for a change!



SENPAI!!!

The End



THE BIRTH OF "GLASHMA"

It all started for me with an unexpected phone call from the Newtype editorial department. As it so happened, they were planning to start a new manga series soon, and they wanted me to think up some kind of title for it. Why me? Well, as you may recall, I write a monthly column for Newtype, and the theme of that column is "taking on" challenges of one sort or another—I suppose that gave them the impression I'm the kind of guy who goes around looking for challenges or something. Who knows. But with my reputation on the line, I wasn't about to turn down a challenge like this, least of all one coming from my own editors.

So I accepted. It was only later—and much too late to back out—when I started having grave doubts about the whole thing. First of all, who was I to come up with a title for someone else's manga?! And second of all, what do I do when my proposal comes back with a big fat thumbs down?! Rest assured, these were no small concerns for me, but as soon as I laid eyes on the rough manuscript they sent over for my perusal, all my doubts withered away and disappeared.

There was "Sengai" with his eyepatch and trusty hat—what a character! And Nippori with his weakling charms! I was hooked from the start. But the clincher wasn't actually the promising new story unfolding beneath my fingertips—it was the handwritten note stapled to the manuscript. The note contained the following line (and I'm quoting this word for word): "Thanks for reading this so diaperactively. Stand and shout DIAPER at the heart of the world!"

"Diaperactively"?! By that point I knew I was in for a real challenge. If Kumiko Suekane could use a word like that in a professional commencqué, then by God I needed to come up with a title to do justice to her mad word-mushing genius.

Here was the story: In an unspecified future, all the women so important to our happiness and survival vanish without a trace, leaving a world full of men who acquire magic powers in their absence, among the men a group of government workers dedicated to tracking the missing women down.

After digesting all that, the first thing I thought of was Cinderella and her prince (or princess, as the case may be). A woman who consumes your thoughts is missing, and all you have left of her is a fragile glass slipper—recalling that famous story of love and betrayal suddenly placed Sengai and Nippon and all the other characters in the manuscript into much sharper focus. After all, what were these men but young princes abandoned by their lovers? And they didn't even have glass slippers to go on—their only clue was their own incipient magic abilities.

Then it came to me. Glass shoes and magic. Gla(ss) + sh(oes) + ma(gic). "Glashma"! A new word was born. From there it was but a small leap to "Once upon a"—another fairy tale connection to remind us of the simple truth that less is often the precursor to new and wonderful gains.

Rereading the story, I find the clearest presentation of that idea in the episode of the old man living in filth and the pile of garbage animated by his thoughts into a frightful specter of his now gone wife. Can you imagine a sadder life for this man? Endlessly collecting junk in order to escape the unbearable pain of lost love. Even now his plight brings a tear to my eye!

The maid costumes are also unusually well placed here. While we may moan in disgust at the sight of a hairy-shinned maid—and frankly, who wouldn't?—we shouldn't forget that ideals are often wrapped in a package of clothing. The transforming power of an outfit is a theme oft repeated in stories from East to West.

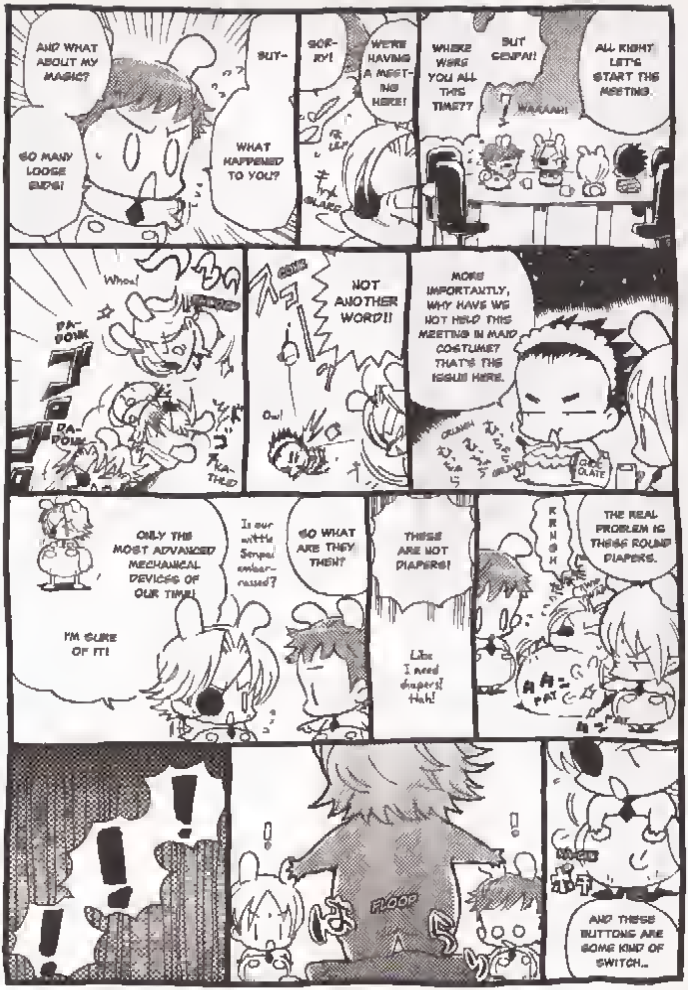
And then we come to the woman who banished all other women from the face of the earth—Gotanda's sister. Her presence is best understood as yet another incarnation of the same evil driving the wicked stepmother to rob Cinderella out of existence, and only adds to the thematic unity underscoring the fairy tale character of this remarkable manga.

In closing, I want to emphasize how thoroughly I was able to immerse myself in these timeless themes and enjoy the story as just another reader among many. Kumiko Suekane, I thank you most diaperactively for this wonderful series!

—Tow Ubukata, October 2006

Tow Ubukata
Born in Gifu in 1977, Tow Ubukata is one of today's hottest young Japanese writers. After winning a Kadokawa Sneaker Award for his debut novel Kuma Kisetsu (1998), he went on to pen Mardock Scramble (2002), the book that put his name on the map after claiming the coveted Japan Sci-Fi Award later that year. A stint as chief writer on the Fafner (2004) anime project led to his own series, La Chevalier D'Eon (2006), where he served as both story planner and scriptwriter, as well as overseeing and contributing to the manga adaptation and novelization of the story. While still penning new books, Ubukata continues to write actively for games, manga and anime.

BONUS MANGA
BM REVIEW MEETING
HUH??!
SOME KIND OF "EMERGENCY MEETING"...?
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
ACK!!
It wasn't me!
I GUESS THIS IS MY SEAT.
Figure...
NO ONE'S EVEN HERE!
WH-WH-WH-WHA-?
What's going on?
AND SHIBUYA AND UGUISUDANI TOO?!!
SENPAI?!
SMIRK
HEH HEH HEH


AND WHAT ABOUT MY MAGIC?
SO MANY LOOSE ENDS!
BUT-
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
SORRY!
WE'RE HAVING A MEETING HERE!
BLAKE!
WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME??
BUT SENPAI!
WAAAAH!
ALL RIGHT LET'S START THE MEETING.
Whoa!
PA-POOM
RA-POOM
KA-THUD
GONG
NOT ANOTHER WORD!!
Ow!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY HAVE WE NOT HELD THIS MEETING IN MAID COSTUMES? THAT'S THE ISSUE HERE.
CHUNK
CHOCOLATE
ONLY THE MOST ADVANCED MECHANICAL DEVICES OF OUR TIME!
I'M SURE OF IT!
Is our little Senpai embarrassed?
SO WHAT ARE THEY THEN?
THESE ARE NOT DIAPERS!
Like I need diapers! Huh!
KRNSH
THE REAL PROBLEM IS THESE ROUND DIAPERS.
!
!
!
!
!
FLOOR
AND THESE BUTTONS ARE SOME KIND OF SWITCH...

LISTEN UP!
IT'S ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
IT'S NOT ABOUT "HAPPENED"...
NOT AT ALL!
THRUM THRUM
I'M STILL WONDERING ABOUT THE STORY--
HIPPO!!
Ugh, what now...?
!!
I STILL THINK WE SHOULD'A GONE WITH MAID COSTUMES...
YEAH... I GUESS NOT
YOU CAN'T THINK THAT TIES IT UP INTO A NEAT LITTLE BALL
SEMPAI
It's too CLICHÉ!
Like there aren't enough...
WAAA
WAAA
SEMPAI, THAT JOKE WAS TERRIBLE
YOU WANT MAIDS?! WELL, THIS BAT IS MADE TO ORDER!
CRACK!
CRACK!
WHOMP
Um, different "maid"
SNOOP
WHA--?
These needles are too spongy--
Just a dream??!
END
ONCE UPON A GLASHIMA
SPECIAL THANKS TO KAJIHARA, ITOH & SUZUKI!